'Iron Dome' defense system deployed to Guam. PAGE 2
2 new PCR test machines seen to boost TRIP expansion. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 200

www.saipantribune.com **FRIDAY** OCTOBER 8, 2021 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

GREEN ENERGY JOSHUA SANTOS

Guests, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres; acting Education commissioner Eric M. Magofna; Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini; and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member and former BOE chair Janice A. Tenorio, gather around some of the solar panels in yesterday's "Solar Energy System Launch Ceremony."

3rd COVID-19-related death in CNMI

A vaccinated male with underlying medical conditions who passed earlier this month has been confirmed as the CNMI's third COVID-19-related death.

The patient, who was a CNMI resident, had tested positive for COVID-19 in August, was identified on arrival through travel screening, and quarantined, according to a news release from the Office of the Governor, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. last night.

It said the patient was admitted to the hospital while in quarantine, recovered, and was discharged in early September. Shortly after, he was readmitted to the CHCC hospital due to complications related to COVID-19 pneumonia.

"It is always heartbreaking when we lose a patient to any disease after exhausting all efforts to help them recover. We share in the family's grief and send our deepest condolences

See 3RD COVID on Page 4

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By GARY SWORD

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gary Sword is vice president of the KKMP radio station, one of the most popular and beloved stations in the Marianas. He leads KKMP's commitment to serve the Marianas with briefings and programs for a healthier, happier, more culturally connected, and well-informed community. He has also served as a senior management of the American Samoa Power Authority, and has extensive experience in power, water, wastewater, and solid waste services. As a key leader in the community, he serves as a member of the Domestic Policy Recovery Committee for the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. The GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

Resolving the Marianas' trash issues will require cooperative effort

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Last weekend, empty beer bottles and bags of food were left on one of the benches at Micro Beach. This disappointing sight, along with other incidents of people carelessly leaving their trash

See RESOLVING on Page 4

'A momentous occasion'

Solar panels to be installed in all CNMI public schools by next year

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Right now, five states are recognized all over the United States for their widespread use of solar energy in their public schools. By next year, the CNMI will hopefully be joining this prestigious group, with the planned installation of solar energy systems in all public schools in the Commonwealth.

The CNMI Public School System launched yesterday at Marianas High School its solar energy system installation project for all of the CNMI's

See OCCASION on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:42pm, Oct.7, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **82.5%**

Days since last community transmission: **197**

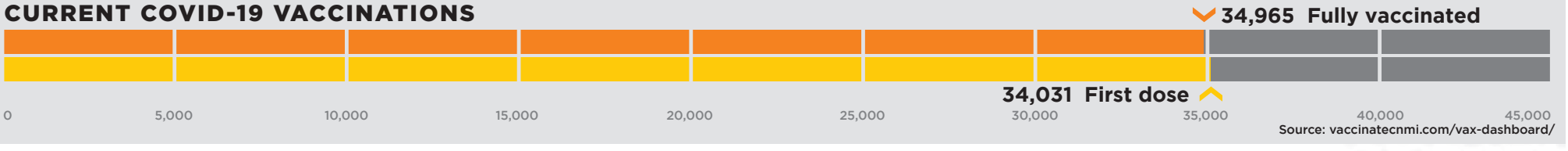
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,161
Fully Vaccinated:	29,494
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,870
Fully Vaccinated:	4,656
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	815

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	15,789	138	15,927
Recovered	13,127	13	13,140
Active	2,439	138	2,577
Deaths	204	6[2]	210

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	272	1	273
Traced via Travel Screening	235	1	236
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	1	3

[1]10/6=159; 10/5=165 | [2]10-6=2; 10/5=4
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL

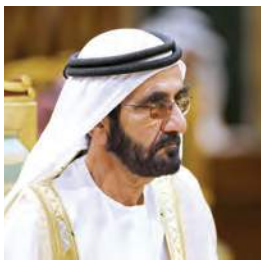
The National Band Association awards Julian Greening with the "Citation of Excellence."

PAGE 14

BUSINESS

Jhen's Sweet Corner in Dan Dan offers freshly baked cakes, pastries, and afternoon tea.

PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is found to have hacked his ex-wife's phones.

PAGE 18

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

www.nmidems.org
@nmidems
She is the One!
BOTA CORINA MAGOFNA
EARLY VOTING OCT. 9-15
SPECIAL ELECTION FOR PRECINCT 3 ON OCT. 16!
#1 on the Ballot
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Vote for No More Than One (1)
1. MAGOFNA, Corina Lorraine (DEMOCRAT)
Remember - Nobody knows where your pencil goes...
Make it Count & Vote Democrats for Responsible Government.

Unfold The 5G Experience

SAMSUNG
Galaxy Z 5G

Galaxy Z Fold3 5G
$53.30
per month

Galaxy Z Flip3 5G
$31.63
per month

Available NOW on Access $50

CNMI 670-488-CARE
docomopacific.com

docomo pacific
Better Together

Minimum $50 Access plan required. Advertised price based on 30-month device installments on NOW program. Subject to credit checks. While supplies last. Some conditions apply.

Local

‘Iron Dome’ deployed to Guam

» Joint Region Marianas, Guam government welcome temporary deployment

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas and the Government of Guam are working with the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command and 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade to support the temporary deployment of one of the Army’s Iron Dome Defense Systems to Andersen Air Force Base.

Personnel have already arrived in Guam, and the temporary deployment is anticipated to take place from mid-October through mid-December. The deployment will be executed in multiple locations and equipment may be visible in Apra Harbor, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz and Andersen Air Force Base.

“This experimental deployment is a tremendous opportunity to test the capability of a point defense system in the theater, assess its performance alongside existing systems, and determine for future use,” said Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, commander of Joint Region Marianas. “A robust missile defense capability will significantly improve our defense posture and protect our people and critical assets in the region.”

“I fully support the temporary deployment of the Iron Dome system to Guam,” said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. “Additional missile defense protection in this part of the world would strengthen national security by providing another layer of protection to our current Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system or THAAD. The Guam National Guard is currently on their fourth rotation of security at the THAAD site. A permanent missile defense capability would be a continuation of the local investments made to secure a safer homeland, in partnership with the Department of Defense.

“At a time when a free and open Indo-Pacific Region is of utmost global importance, a safe and prosperous home for Guam residents is of equal local importance. We look forward to continued work that ensures the freedom and security of our people, as One Guam with our DoD partners,” she added.

Island residents should anticipate additional military vehicles in Guam’s roadways in the coming weeks. In addition, soldiers and equipment from Fort Bliss, Texas will be part of this deployment for the duration of the operational assessment. ***(PR)***

HANA
HEALTH MASSAGE

SERVICES OFFERED
▪ Body (Oil) Massage ▪ Foot Massage (with medicine) ▪ Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain)
▪ NEW! Table Shower and Body Scrub Spa - Soon in San Antonio Location
SPECIAL PROMO
▪ 90 minutes Body (Oil) Massage $25
Locations: ▪ MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
▪ NEW location → San Antonio, across Afetna Super Market
10:00AM TO 12:00AM • Call HANA: 789-7778

Toys & Clothes
for children ages 0 to 10
halloween costumes now available
20% off selected items
LOLLIPOPS
BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Mon-Sat: 9am to 6pm & Sun: 10am to 4pm
TEL : 234-8040
Like us on Facebook

2 new PCR test machines seen to boost expansion of Travel Bubble

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The acquisition of two new machines needed in order test for the COVID-19 virus is expected to boost the Marianas Visitors Authority's ability to expand the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan, or TRIP program, with South Korea.

According to Ivan Quichocho, MVA board member and TRIP South Korea chairman, the CNMI's ability to process polymerase chain reaction, PCR, tests to detect COVID-19 is currently one of the factors that is slowing down the expansion of the TRIP program. He said the CNMI can only process so many PCR tests right now and, with the PCR test being one of the TRIP program's requirement of testing upon arrival, the CNMI would struggle to accommodate the wave of tourists that are expected to arrive through the program.

Fortunately, as of last week, Quichocho said the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force have informed MVA that they have already acquired two new amplifiers—machines needed in order test for the COVID-19 virus. The addition of these two amplifiers could pick up the CNMI's current capacity by 97 tests, Quichocho added.

"We've had a meeting with [the] task force and CHCC. They have purchased two new amplifiers that are on island and going through commissioning. Basically, they just need to be installed. This should pick up our capacity another 97 tests that we could run within a four-hour period. So that improves our capacity to be able to handle more arrivals. If we continue this current program of PCR testing well in through 2022, we'll have quicker results [and] quicker turnaround," he said.

Quichocho said MVA expects to get updates from CHCC and the task force sometime this week on the installation of these amplifiers. With the installation, said Quichocho, MVA could look into possibly allowing additional TRIP bookings and for additional flights to the CNMI.

"Hopefully CHCC can give us an update on the installation and the commissioning of those units. So that was one of the main issues that was kind of holding us back in terms of expanding the market and allowing market forces to take over," he said.

Currently, the CNMI expects to serve a total of 7,794 TRIP participants through the end of the year.

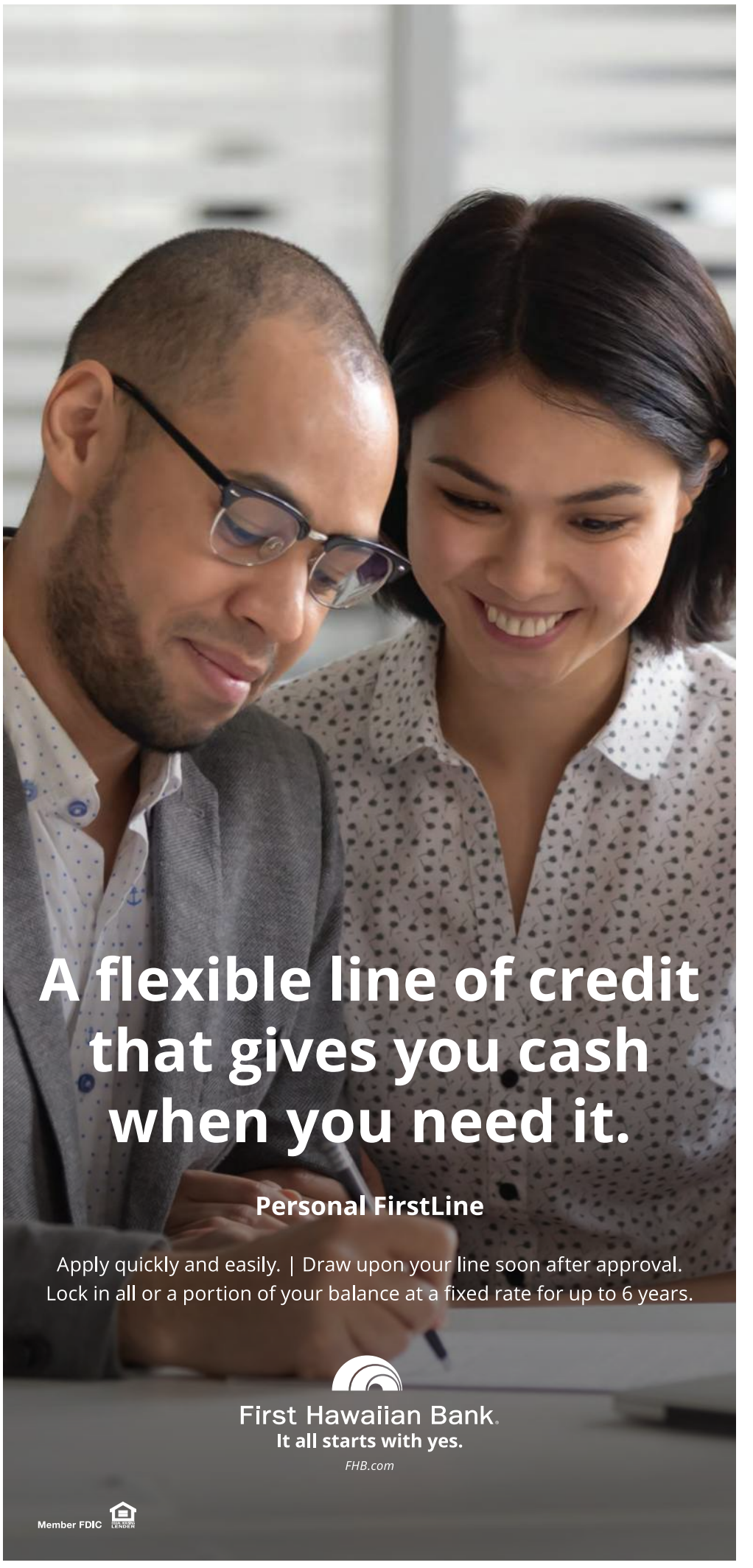
ARMATECH

Parking Management System Installer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 I Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Open the door to safety:
awareness is the key!
a friendly reminder from
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

Visit us @ www.saipantribune.com

LIMITED TIME
PUMPKIN IS BACK
McCafé
CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD:
OPEN DAILY FROM 6AM to 10PM DAILY
MOBILE ORDER & PAY: 7AM - 9PM
(CURBSIDE, FRONT COUNTER/TAKEOUT)
DRIVE THRU: 6AM - 10PM
TEL. NO.: (670) 235-8577
GARAPAN EXPRESS:
OPEN DAILY - DINE IN & TAKE OUT: 6AM - 12AM
MOBILE ORDER & PAY: 7AM - 9PM
(CURBSIDE, FRONT COUNTER/TAKEOUT)
DRIVE THRU: 6AM - 10PM
DRIVE-THRU: OPEN 24 HOURS DAILY
TEL. NO.: (670) 233-8577


A flexible line of credit that gives you cash when you need it.
Personal FirstLine
Apply quickly and easily. | Draw upon your line soon after approval.
Lock in all or a portion of your balance at a fixed rate for up to 6 years.
First Hawaiian Bank
It all starts with yes.
FHB.com
Member FDIC

DPL, Hyatt signing lease agreement contract today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands and the owner of Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan will be signing today, Friday, the lease agreement contract for another 40-year land lease.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said that DPL and Saipan Portopia Hotel Corp., which owns Hyatt Regency Saipan, will hold a lease agreement renewal ceremony today, 10:45am, at Miyako Restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Bautista said the event will begin with a presentation of the lease agreement followed by a luncheon hosted by the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Details of the lease agreement are expected to be disclosed at the ceremony.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres thanked Hyatt for its continued strong partnership with the CNMI.

Torres expressed appreciation to DPL Secretary Sixto Igisomar, former DPL secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, and Attorney General Edward Manibusan, for coming to an agreement with Hyatt on what is best for the future of the CNMI.

Hyatt Regency Saipan. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

"I also want to thank and congratulate Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa and Hyatt," the governor said.

Torres has been vocal about his support in seeing Hyatt get the lease extension.

Hyatt's 40-year public land lease will expire in December 2021. The land lease of Fiesta Resort & Spa, which is adjacent to Hyatt, is supposed to expire in June 2021, but it got a new 40-year lease.

The enactment of Public Law 20-84 increases the terms of public land leases up to 40 years, plus an extension of 15 years, for a total of 55 years. The law also authorized certain public land leases to be amended and extend existing lease terms up to 55 years.

The law gives DPL the authority to negotiate new public land leases to certain existing lessees under new terms and considerations even without publishing a request for proposal.

MHS back to in-person classes next week

» Cohorts will be merged, school open for full hours five days a week, COVID safety protocols will still be followed

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With more than 80% of its student population already vaccinated against COVID-19, Marianas High School will return to full in-person classes starting next week. This means MHS will merge its cohorts and open all classes for full hours five days a week, said MHS principal Jonathan Aguon Thursday. Of course, all COVID-19 safety guidelines are still in place and will be followed, he added.

Aguon said that he and the rest of MHS are excited to be the first public high school on Saipan to open for full in-person classes.

"Our school has been busy getting the campus set up [for next week], and, of course, all COVID [safety] guidelines still are in place. Mask wearing is important [and] we have sanitation protocols to make sure that our students' safety is our priority," said Aguon.

Aguon acknowledged how important in-person classes are to ensuring effective learning and lauding MHS' students for their collective effort in making full in-person classes possible.

"We understand that having face-to-face instruction is important for our students, and I'm very proud of my Dolphins because they're the ones who took initiative. We needed to [have] at least 80% of our students be vaccinated and we [reached] that rate quite quickly," said Aguon. MHS students are often referred to as Dolphins because their mascot is a dolphin.

"We're the largest school in the CNMI Public School System, and to think that over 80% of [our students] are vaccinated really means a lot because it shows their commitment to our community's safety and [their commitment] to have the full school experience that comes with a more open school," he added.

In a separate interview Thursday, acting Education commissioner Eric M. Magofna said that MHS is currently one of just three CNMI public schools with student populations aged 12 and older to reach 80% vaccinated and open back up for full in-person classes this school year, the other two schools being Tinian Jr./ Sr. High School on Tinian and Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./ Sr. High School on Rota.

3RD COVID

From Page 1

as they try to find comfort and strength in these difficult times," said CHCC chief medical officer John Tudela, M.D. "This virus continues to demonstrate how unforgiving and unrelenting it can be as it evolves and rages on globally. We cannot stress enough to the community how important it is for everyone to continue to be vigilant here and when traveling outside the CNMI to protect yourself and your loved ones. Our community fortunately has been spared from a surge so far, but we cannot let our guard down."

Currently, there are 273 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the CNMI. The latest case was added last Oct. 6, 2021. The individual was identified by travel screening and confirmed through fifth-day testing on Oct. 6, 2021. The individual has been quarantined and is now being monitored.

"It is never easy to hear news that we lost a member of our community," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "We extend our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones during this difficult time, and we ask our community to keep them in their prayers. This should be a constant reminder for all of us to continue protecting each other during this pandemic. We will continue to keep our community safe."

The same news release quotes CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña as saying, "We ask the community to join us in keeping the family and the deceased in our thoughts during this trying time," said. "The loss of a community member affects us all; we should look out and be there for each other. We will provide necessary assistance to the family."

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, contact the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. The hotline runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

OCCASIONS

From Page 1

public schools, made possible via a power purchase agreement between PSS and Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc. The project is being billed not only as a milestone project for PSS, but also as a significant achievement for the CNMI and Micronesia region.

MRE chief operations officer Jeffrey Voacolo said in his remarks during the event that solar power installations in schools have risen by 139% since 2014 and there are currently 7,332 K-12 schools using solar power nationwide.

Currently, the top five U.S. states with public school systems leading the way in terms of solar energy are California, New Jersey, Arizona, New Hampshire, and Indiana, Voacolo said. Once all solar panels are installed in all PSS schools, Voacolo said the CNMI will be joining this group very soon.

Voacolo said that he and MRE have recently been getting calls from the U.S. Department of Energy, Solar Energy Industries Association, and global companies who "all have eyes on this project" and lauded PSS for its commitment to reducing fossil fuel consumption in the long-term.

"It's just a phenomenal feat, and it's really going to put the CNMI and PSS on the map. This project will be showcased not only throughout Micronesia, but throughout the world," he said. "…There is no better way to educate the youth of the CNMI to become productive citizens in a global society than by eliminating the need to burn fossil fuels for energy. ...Congratulations to PSS and congratulations to the CNMI. This is a milestone project, and we [are] proud to be a part of it."

In an interview after the event, acting Education commissioner Eric M. Magofna said that yesterday was a "momentous occasion for PSS," adding that the system-wide installation of solar panels will have no initial costs for PSS as outlined in its power purchase agreement with MRE.

Through the agreement, MRE will fund all installation costs, and PSS will only be responsible for the cost of solar power consumed once all panels are installed. Magofna said that PSS and MRE will be working closely, and he predicts that all public schools will have solar panels installed by next year.

"Today is a very momentous occasion for PSS. We are so excited that we're finally getting solar power panels for all [public] schools in the CNMI. This will greatly reduce our utility bills, decrease our dependency on costly fossil fuels, and this new solar energy project can be used an educational tool for our students in the CNMI," said Magofna.

Saipan Tribune reported Wednesday that, according to Magofna, PSS will incur energy savings amounting to more than $1 million per year through its use of solar energy.

Other guests at yesterday's ceremony included Gov. Ralph DLG Torres; Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios; Magofna; Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini; Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member and former BOE chair Janice A. Tenorio; and several lawmakers.

RESOLVING

From Page 1

for someone else to pick up, is a common occurrence.

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers has spent considerable time discussing this long-standing garbage issue in the Marianas and how our government can take strategic steps to resolve the problem. Along with fellow GCEA members, I supported the recommendation for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to establish a task force that can take the lead in addressing waste management issues in the Marianas.

On Sept. 28, Torres signed Executive Order 2021-21, creating the Universal Garbage Collection Task Force. The group is made up of representatives from government, environment, business sectors, and private citizens. We have been given 90 days to produce a report with solutions for how to tackle the trash problems that have plagued our community for ages.

The new Universal Garbage Collection Task Force will take a holistic approach to create sustainable solutions for Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands. The initial goal will be to establish a house-to-house collection service, which will have a major impact on litter and illegal dumping in our community. It will then be tied into a larger waste management plan that will address other areas of the waste disposal stream.

Littering is linked to a variety of environmental, economic, and health issues that can disrupt a community's good health and quality of life. It is vital to protect the health and safety of our community and visitors for generations to come.

Community support required

Garbage is everyone's problem, and it will take the support of our entire community to resolve our trash issues.

The task force will begin its work immediately to gather input from residents, village leaders, lawmakers, businesses, environmental groups, and other stakeholders. It will be a challenge to draft a full plan in 90 days, but the task force will do its best to produce a stepwise plan to move this game-changing initiative forward quickly.

The task force will look at all pathways to achieve the result of house-to-house garbage collection and reduce the amount of garbage deposited in the landfills. We will look at recycling, waste-to-energy, and any other innovative methods that can provide viable solutions for our environment.

There will be a cost to this effort, but I am positive that with adequate discussions and inputs from our stakeholders, we can produce an affordable consumer rate that will make the universal garbage collection work without overly burdening our community.

No time to waste

It is a shared responsibility to have an affordable and efficient waste management system. This means that our entire community must come together in this effort to make our home cleaner, healthier, and economically sound.

In an era of rapid urbanization and population growth, solid waste management is critical for sustainable, healthy, and inclusive cities and communities. If immediate action isn't taken, our islands will continue on a dangerous path to overwhelming pollution. Lives, livelihoods, and the environment would pay an even higher price than they are today.

Together We Can improve the quality of life in the Marianas for generations to come.

For more information about GCEA's Universal Garbage Collection initiative, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com. Engage with GCEA on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or email your feedback to gceacnmi@gmail.com.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan
1st Annual Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Tournament

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, West Course
Saturday, December 11, 2021

Showtime 6:00 AM • Shotgun Start 7:00 AM • Format: Medal Play

$120 - Early Registration | $140 - After November 30, 2021 | $30 - Optional Play
No Refund after entry deadline of December 5, 2021

TOURNAMENT PRIZES
All Categories Champ: A Flight • B Flight • C Flight • Seniors • Super Seniors • Ladies
First Place $500 | Second Place $300 | Third Place $200

Tournament Participants

FREE TOTE BAG

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZES

2021 LEXUS RX

Sponsored by **Atkins Kroll**

2022 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SE

Sponsored by **Triple J Motors**

PRIZE VEHICLE MAY NOT BE EXACTLY AS SHOWN

$10,000 CASH
Sponsored by **Bank of Saipan**

$10,000 CASH
Sponsored by **UER** [United Equipment Rental]

DIAMOND SPONSORS

AK SINCE 1914 · Customers First TRIPLE J · Tan Holdings · Tan Siu Lin Foundation · UNITED EQUIPMENT RENTAL · BANK OF SAIPAN MARIANAS PRIDE

GOLD SPONSORS

Exxon Mobil · MAR PAC Inc. · SORENSEN MEDIA GROUP · STAY WELL INSURANCE · Bank of Guam

SILVER SPONSORS

BankPacific · Matson · BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC · Coca-Cola · Marianas Variety

BRONZE SPONSORS

SAIPAN TECHNOLOGY · ADA'S TRUST · Bank of Hawaii · AB Risk Solutions · RNV CONSTRUCTION • GENERAL CONTRACTOR • · HERMAN'S BAKERY & Tan Markita's Cafe · SCS Saipan Computer Services · IDEAL SIGNS · Kauly Glass Inc.

GENERAL SPONSORS

TRANCOR · 3Hi•Res Designs DIGITAL PRINTING STUDIO · GUANGDONG HARDWARE · JOETEN ENTERPRISES INC. · I ♥ SAIPAN · TARO SUE CORPORATION ONE-STOP SHOP · AA ENTERPRISES INC. · WSTCO

Registration forms available at McDonald's Main Office and Laolao Bay Golf and Resort
For questions or inquiries please contact Marcia E. Ayuyu or Ana Olaes at admin@jcamcd.com or at telephone no. (670)235-8761

IPI's $8M casino license fee from 2019 available for appropriation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has informed the Legislature that $8 million of the $15 million casino license fee that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC paid to the CNMI government two years ago is available for appropriation.

In a letter Monday to Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Torres said the $8 million—which is part of the sixth-year casino license fee that IPI paid the government—will be divvied up as follows: $1 million is available for appropriation to the First Senatorial District or Rota, $1 million to the Second Senatorial District or Tinian and Aguiguan, and $6 million to the Third Senatorial District or Saipan and Northern Islands.

The governor said that, in coordination with the certification of funding by the Department of Finance and in accordance with Public Law 21-10, the appropriation of $6 million for Saipan will be allocated as follows: $2 million for Sugar Dock construction and repair, $1 million for the Northern Marianas College, $750,000 for Precinct 1, $750 for Precinct 3, $750,000 for Precinct 4, and $750,000 for Precinct 5.

"It is my hope that these funds will be used for the purposes of enhancing the missions and goals of the Northern Marianas College as part of our Commonwealth's efforts to build our local workforce," Torres said.

The governor said he hopes that the funds given to each precinct and senatorial district will be utilized in the best interests of the community by implementing programs and projects that target and address specific needs of people.

That was the last time IPI was able to pay the casino license fee. The company failed to pay $15.5 million casino license fee that was due on Aug. 12, 2020, and subsequently on Aug. 12, 2021. IPI has also failed to pay the $3.1 million casino regulatory fee on Oct. 1, 2020, and subsequently on March 3, 2021.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

COTA reports 58% increase in transit trips in fiscal year 2021

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority reported a 58% ridership increase in its Call-A-Ride Saipan demand responsive shared ride service in fiscal year 2021 compared to last fiscal year.

COTA's total ridership in fiscal year 2021 reached 14,735 trips—the highest it's ever been since the inception of the program in 2011. COTA's ridership last fiscal year 2020 was 9,314 trips.

Part of the increase in ridership is also due to the recent increase in fuel costs in the CNMI.

"For fiscal year 2021, we have seen an increase of our community members who have personal cars but would rather take the Call-A-Ride Saipan demand responsive shared ride program to reduce their fuel costs and save money at the gas pump," said Operations and Maintenance coordinator Ernie Bell.

COTA also recorded a 67% increase in its revenue farebox collection in fiscal year 2021 for a total amount of $45,130 compared to fiscal year 2020.

"The increase in collected revenue for fiscal year 2021 stems from COTA's partnering agencies like the Center for Living Independently, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Kagman Health Community Clinic, and the Division of Youth Services assisting their consumers with their transportation needs," said Finance coordinator Maegan Agulto.

"…[This] proves that a state transit system, in partnership with other government agencies, the private sector, and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, can modernize and improve the ridership opportunities to better meet the needs of the communities we serve," said special assistant for public transportation Alfreda Camacho Maratita.

COTA continuously supports the CNMI Governor's COVID-19 Task Force with Emergency Support Function-1 Transportation duties and responsibilities. As of Sept. 30, 2021, COTA has transported 23,850 passengers under the CNMI Governor's COVID-19 Task Force since March of 2020.

"The data for both the Call-A-Ride ridership and the COVID-19 transportation counts provide a small picture of the great work being provided by COTA. Alfreda and her team have worked extremely hard this last year to respond to community requests for rides, as well as continuing to remain dedicated to our COVID-19 Task Force as vital parts of our operation to keep the community safe. Everyone from the bus drivers to the office staff should be commended for their excellent work," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

COTA has created a transit disinfection team and adopted best practices to thoroughly disinfect transit vehicles to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the CNMI community. COTA reassures the community that it disinfects its transit vehicles every day and is committed to passenger safety during every transit ride.

For more information about COTA's public transportation services, call COTA's One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center at (670) 664-2692 or visit their website at www.cota.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

BAKERY MANAGER

Function of Job:
The Bakery Manager will be responsible for a bakery operation, to include the production of quality baked goods according to stringent deadlines, based on a precise knowledge of latest baking technology and careful control of available resources. The Bakery Manager will supervise and coordinate the activity of staff in bakeries and perform tasks such as budgeting, ordering supplies, recruiting and training employees, implementing safety measures, and promoting the bakery to potential clients.

Characteristic Duties and Responsibilities:
1. Plan, schedule and supervise bakery production, shipping and cleaning activities to highest safety and sanitation standards.
2. Supervise, evaluate, train and schedule work of bakery staff.
3. Order and arrange for correct ingredients, supplies and equipment using computerized system.
4. Be responsible for consolidation of product orders from users.
5. Assure the proper use and care by staff of a large variety of highly specialized production equipment.
6. Appraise staff performance and carry out the necessary disciplinary measures to address poor performance.
7. Develop, maintain and update recipe files through computerized processes.
8. Be responsible for inventorying of stock.
9. Assist in developing and implementing merchandising plans for new cash operations, as required.
10. Assist bakers with production of new products or when schedule falls behind.
11. Perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Acceptable Qualifications:
1. High school graduation or GED with some technical training and at least three (3) years of related experience in commercial baking of a variety of products, two (2) of which should be in a supervisory capacity.

2. Food Handler Certification.

3. Specialized technical knowledge of baking fundamentals.

4. Computer skills in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, and Outlook.

5. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Applications can be picked up at Joeten Main Office, Susupe 2/F.
Please no phone calls.

J C Tenorio Enterprises Inc is an equal opportunity employer

BICYCLES

20% OFF

LUGGAGES

20% OFF

COMFORTERS

20% OFF

ELECTRIC FANS

20% OFF

PLASTICWARES

20% OFF

PICTURE FRAMES & PHOTO ALBUMS

20% OFF

HANDBAGS

20% OFF

SHOES & SANDALS

20% OFF

SUNGLASSES

20% OFF

HAND SANITIZERS

20% OFF

FACE MASKS

20% OFF

MENS TEE SHIRTS & SHORTS

20% OFF

LADIES BLOUSES & SKIRTS

20% OFF

BOYS TEE SHIRTS

20% OFF

WICKER BASKETS

20% OFF

YARDAGE

30% OFF

Columbus Day Weekend Sale

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 09 TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 33#

$21.99

HOFFY DELITE BACON 12oz

2 FOR $6

CHUCKWAGON HOTDOGS 12oz

$1

SAPPORO ICHIBAN ORIGINAL RAMEN 24/3.5oz

$11.98/cs.

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 15#

2 FOR $20

SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44#

$22.99

KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.8 LITER

2 FOR $10

HAWAIIAN SUN DRINKS 12pk

$6.98

PURISS WATER 20/350ml

$4.98/cs.

JOETEN BUTANE GAS 7/4 PACK

$19.99/cs.

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

LYSOL WIPES LEMON & LIME BLSM 35ct

$3.99

SUPERSOFT TABLE NAPKINS 500ct

$4.99

DUNCAN CAKE GOLDEN BUTTER 15oz

$1.99

EED CHILI BEANS IN SAUCE 15oz

$1.19

EED SYRUP PANCAKE 24oz

$2.99

BLUE MUSSEL MEAT 2lb

$7.49

NZ FROZEN SALMON FILLET S-ON B/O /LB

$13.99/lb.

SEAFOOD MIX 1LB

$3.29

POMFRET / POMPANO 400-800GR IQF

$3.99/lb.

NORBEST GROUND TURKEY 1LB

$3.59

CAROLINA GROUND TURKEY WHT 16oz

$2.99

BEST YET CORN COB LONG FROZEN 4CT

$4.15

BEST YET CORN CUT FROZEN 16z

$1.99

GROUND PORK 73% 1LB

$3.49

Joeten Shopping Center

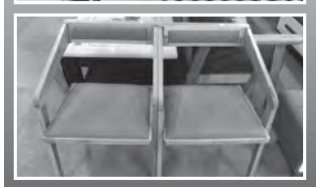
DISCLAIMER: Although Joeten strives to ensure that all pricing information on this ad is accurate, occasionally an error may occur and goods may be mispriced. We reserve the right to correct all typographical and pictorial errors.

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA MasterCard JCB

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL
Furniture



Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
VALSPAR PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

CITING VETOED PROVISIONS OF BUDGET BILL

Manglona asks: Where is the check and balance?

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) questioned yesterday Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' decision to veto 20 sections and subsections in signing the budget bill for fiscal year 2022 into law last week, prompting him to ask: Where is the check and balance between the branches of the government?

Speaking at a Senate session, Manglona said if the Legislature cannot have a say on the number of government employees, full-time employees, and their corresponding salaries, and on budget reprogramming authority and restrictions, then what and where is the power of the Legislature?

The senator said that, in approving the fiscal year 2022 budget bill last week in time to avoid a government shutdown in the Commonwealth, Torres also struck down critical budgetary and accountability provisions in the appropriation bill.

In informing legislative leaders last week that he had signed the bill into law, Torres said he was compelled to address several sections of the bill that he found "problematic." either in their implementation and/or in their lack of fairness to other activities or the different branches of government.

Torres noted that many of the provisions added by the Legislature are either unclear or inconsistent with other provisions of law, or impose additional and unnecessary steps that would delay efficient processes that are already in place.

Manglona, however, urged the Senate to review carefully all the vetoed parts of the budget plan. He also asked the Senate's legal counsel to do an analysis on each of the vetoed parts and give an opinion as to the legality of the governor's action on each item.

Manglona cited the legal opinion issued by Senate counsel Jose A. Bermudes in 2012 on Public Law 17-85. In that opinion, Bermudes concluded that the governor's line-item veto of the $200,000 earmarked for Public Law 7-31 salary adjustments from the Mayor of Rota's allocations in Public Law 17-85 was "an unconstitutional veto of a condition/restriction of an appropriation bill as written and thus a nullity."

Manglona is hoping that similar research can be done on the newly enacted budget law, P.L. 22-08.

The senator said the vetoed parts include:

- Section 304 pertaining to the implementation of any changes in government employees pay.
- Section 404 and Section 501 on budget reduction and reprogramming authority.
- Section 601 on government utilities expenditure and on restrictions of payments for the utilities of any elected officials.
- Section 604 on the limitations of governor's use of emergency order and executive order to reprogram funds appropriated by the budget bill.
- Section 700 on maximum number of positions established for each of the business units.
- Section 704(c) on the $50,000 appropriation for a market feasibility study on the casino gaming industry in the CNMI.
- Section 802(d) pertaining to the American Rescue Plan Act that requires a House joint resolution for the governor to make changes to its allocations.

All PSS schools now have counselors; achieve ASCA student-counselor ratio

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For reportedly the first time in CNMI Public School System history, all CNMI public schools have student counselors in every school and satisfy the American School Counselor Association's nationwide standard of maintaining a student-to-counselor ratio of 250:1.

The ASCA is a nationwide collective that supports school counselors' efforts to enrich students' lives academically, socially, mentally, and emotionally to prepare them to lead meaningful lives as responsible members of society. It recommends that schools maintain a student-to-counselor ratio of 250 students to one counselor and that counselors spend 80% of their time directly working with or indirectly working for students.

Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, senior director of Student and Support Services and director of the PSS Mental Health Team, cited this achievement last Saturday, where she also talked about the toll the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the mental wellness of students and the importance of giving the CNMI's youth opportunities to talk about their mental health.

Pangelinan said she and the Mental Health Team have seen a rise in anxiety and depression in the CNMI's youth as a result of the almost two years in isolation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pangelinan said that anxiety and depression are natural human responses to these mentally taxing times, and that it is important now more than ever that students prioritize their mental health.

"[Feelings of anxiety and depression are] natural because we are social beings. Understanding what helps us sustain mental wellness is really important, during this time in particular, because we cannot socialize and we cannot interact with one another the way that we've always done. There are new norms of behaving, new norms of getting together," she said.

Pangelinan said it is important that students are given the opportunity to talk about their mental health. She also made clear that mental wellness is not just about always being stable and happy, but is actually about "understanding those ups and downs" and knowing when and how to reach out for help when needed.

"We, the Mental Health Team, feel that having an opportunity to sit with kids and talk about the issues that are most important to them, during this time especially. ...It's important we share with them tips that they can use to stay mentally well, reach out and to talk about their problems, and send the message that you don't always have to be okay," said Pangelinan.

"Mental wellness doesn't mean that you're always stable. …Mental wellness is understanding those ups and downs, and learning to [ask yourself] when you're down, 'What are the things that I can do to assist myself?" and 'Who are the people that I can reach out to?'" she added.

NEW WAVE DENTAL
Dental Assistant Needed
New (Full-Time)
*applicants with lab skills preferred
$15-25/hr. call 233-3300 for info, or drop off CV at New Wave Dental

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT
A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
FAMILY SERVICES CASE MANAGER
For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.
DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.
NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021 AT 4:00 PM

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of October 8, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Carolinian Affairs Office	09/23/2021 SS-2021-054	Tipiyeew Inafa'maolek Marianas	Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 09/29/2021
2. Department of Land & Natural Resources - Division of Fish & Wildlife	09/29/2021 SPIW-2021-055	Land Clearing & Demolition	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial, Wetland	Approved* 10/01/2021

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY & CULTURE

COME AND VISIT US TODAY!
FREE ENTRANCE!
MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9AM TO 4PM

The NMI Museum of History and Culture is an independent program from the Office of the Governor.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Daniel I. Aquino Jr.
Executive Director

Hafa Adai yan Tirow! The NMI Museum of History and Culture is excited and pleased to report our progress and steps taken to improve our program and guests' experiences. Last fiscal year was challenging because of the Covid-19 protocols. Despite the challenges, the museum was able to host 1,500 students and 4,500 guests. The outside activities and evening events played a big role in our success. We anticipate to continue to increase our capacity and traffic to the museum with more events that we are planning.

The NMI Museum of History and Culture is opened for guest to tour from Monday to Saturday (9am to 4pm). The museum is free and an excellent place to learn about the history and culture of the Chamorro and Carolinian people. I would like to thank Governor Torres, Secretary of Finance David Atalig, and the members of the 22nd Saipan Northern Island Delegation for their support.

NMI MUSEUM BEGINS INSTALLATION OF THE OUTSIDE HUTS

Our outdoor huts have been getting lots of attention. These huts will be used for hosting signature events that are still being planned out. Beginning next month, the museum will send out announcements for interested vendors who want to rent and occupy these huts. Our huts will be used for our Halloween Night at the Museum.

NMI MUSEUM ASSISTS SAIPAN MAYORS OFFICE WITH ISLAND-WIDE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

The NMI Museum of History and Culture has been assisting the Saipan Mayor's Office with island-wide beautification projects. The museum has been assisting maintaining cutting the grass along the Middle Road (from former Payless Shoes store heading north to Kensington roadside). Mr. James Macaranas and Wenny Haruo also assist in maintaining the grounds at the Oleai Sports Complex (Ada Gymnasium) and the Sugar King Park. Tourism is everyone's business and I urge the public to please respect the hard work that the staff of the Mayor's Office, Parks and Recreation, DPW, Governors Council of Economic Advisers and the NMI Museum contributes to beautify the island by disposing trash, cans, drink bottles in the trash can and not at the side of the road.

ROTARY CLUB OF SAIPAN, ROTARACT CLUB OF SAIPAN AND THE NMI MUSEUM WILL HOST A HALLOWEEN NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Rotary Club of Saipan Rotaract

The NMI Museum will join the Rotary Club of Saipan and the Rotaract Club of Saipan in hosting a Halloween Night at the Museum. We would like all parents and residents to join us Halloween night for the **"MASSIVE HALLOWEEN EVENT"** that we are planning. The 14 huts that are being completed have all been reserved by non-profit agencies and government agencies. We are still inviting other organizations and government agencies who are interested in passing out candies to contact Saipan Rotary Club Community Service Director Joann Aquino at 285-6361 or Archie Ajoste at the NMI Museum at 664-2160.

THE NMI MUSEUM IS OPEN:
Monday to Saturday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Telephone No.
664-2160

NMI MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CULTURE PARTNERED WITH MVA IN WORLD TOURISM DAY

The NMI Museum of History and Culture partnered with the Marianas Visitors Authority to host World Tourism Day for students and island residents. Students and residents were able to see local cultural demonstrations at the Sugar King Park and participate in an educational tour at theNMI Museum.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 200

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Facebook stokes anger for profit. Congress can demand it cool things down

Facebook doesn't just provide a platform for those who spread disinformation and toxic discourse—it actively incentivizes those behaviors in order to hook users on its product. That's the disturbing allegation by company whistleblowers and others, as highlighted in congressional testimony Tuesday.

If in fact Facebook is promoting what amounts to high-tech dog-fighting to stoke anger among its users for the sake of profit, that cannot be allowed to stand without regulatory intervention. Congress can't censor content on the site, but it can certainly demand that a business that gets help from federal law must implement safeguards to disincentivize this behavior.

No one who uses Facebook regularly could deny it's an angry place these days, fraught with conspiracy theories, misinformation and hatred aimed at fellow Facebook users in America and abroad. It's tempting, if depressing, to dismiss that anger as just another example of the nation's generally toxic political culture today. But what if rather than being just a symptom of that toxicity, Facebook is encouraging it?

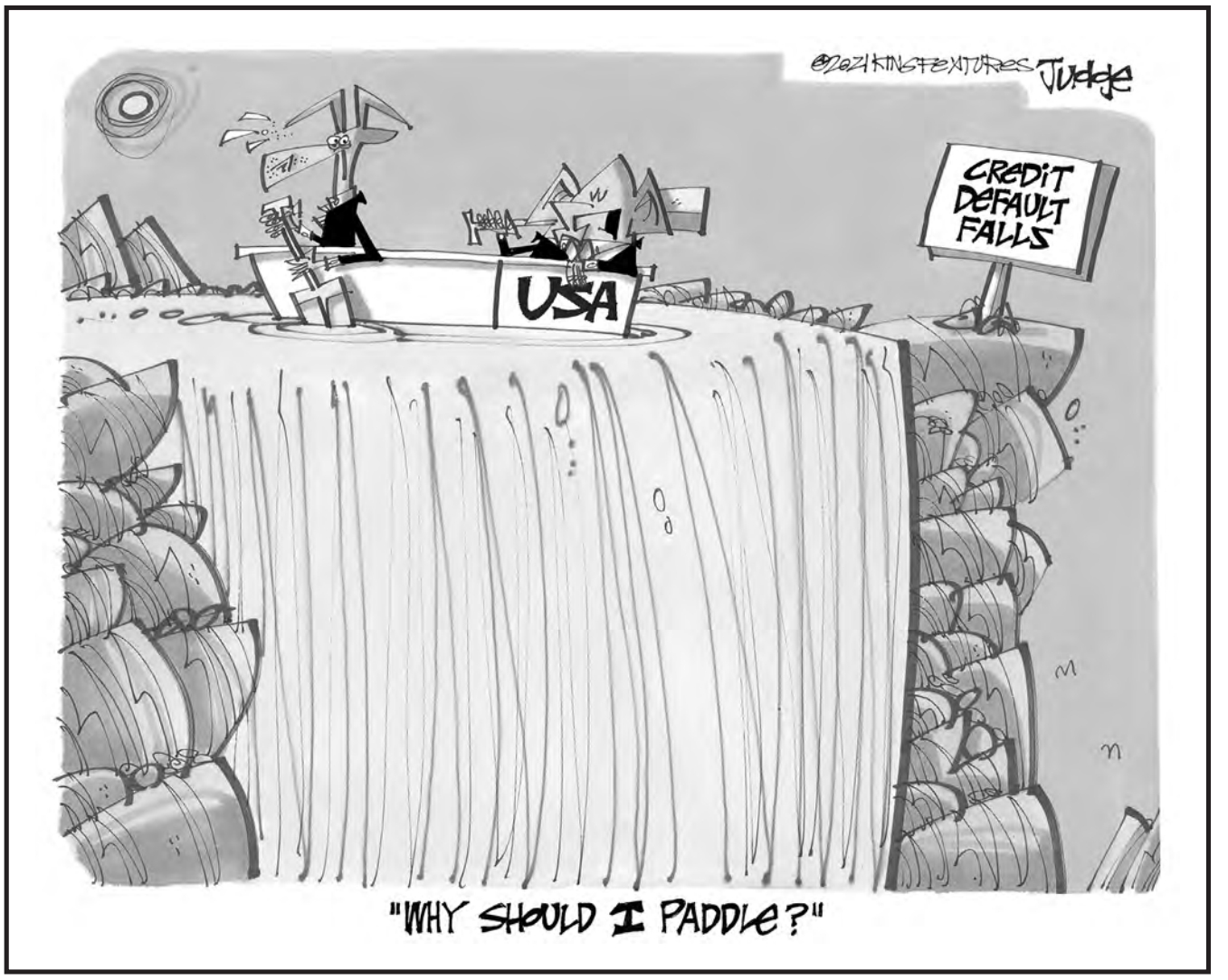
That's the claim of Frances Haugen, a former Facebook employee turned whistleblower who alleges that Facebook isn't merely a sounding board for all that anger, but that the company actively promotes it for the addictive qualities that keep users coming back. She and others say the company's algorithms—the computerized criteria that determine what content pops up on users' screens most often—are tilted toward outrage.

Haugen told a Senate committee Tuesday that the company's "engagement-based ranking" system gives higher rankings to content "more likely to get clicks" and that will "give little bits of dopamine" to users. The real-world impact, she said, includes giving politicians and their supporters incentive to be nasty rather than constructive in their ads and posts: Nasty rises to the top of the content pile and is seen by more users, while calmer, more constructive discourse gets lost in the algorithmic noise.

The reason Facebook and other tech giants can host unfiltered content that might get them sued if they were traditional publishers is that Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act provides them with special legal protection. The idea was to allow the internet to grow without being stifled by litigation. But if the result is a cesspool of anger for the sake of insane levels of profit, why keep that federal shield in place? That's leverage Congress should use.

Facebook can't change human nature, including that dark part of it that craves conflict. But the company can change its algorithms to punish rather than reward bombast, bullying and aggression online. It would likely lead to less obsessive use of its platform by the public—a fistfight will always get more attention than a constructive conversation—which in turn could mean lower profits. But society would be richer for it.

© 2021 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*



Don't just raise the debt ceiling, eliminate it

By DAVID WILCOX
Bloomberg Opinion

David Wilcox is director of U.S. economic research. From 2011 to 2018, he was director of the Federal Reserve Board's Division of Research and Statistics, and served as a senior adviser to three Fed chairs. In the late 1990s, he served as Treasury assistant secretary for economic policy.

Last week saw a rare triumph of substance over politics in Washington. In testimony before the House Financial Services Committee, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen spoke in favor of abolishing the debt ceiling. She's right: The debt ceiling deserves to go. This strange quirk of U.S. budget process serves no purpose except, now and then, to let one party or the other seek political advantage by threatening to throw the financial system into chaos. There's never a good time to flirt with a financial crisis, but with the recovery still far from complete, now is an especially bad one.

On Monday, President Joe Biden argued that the Republicans should agree not to filibuster a bill to raise the ceiling, allowing Democrats to pass the measure on a simple majority. Republicans have said they will play no role in resolving the situation. Democrats don't want to go it alone, arguing that the other party should accept its responsibility for obligations incurred earlier, and that there's anyway no time for Democrats to do what's necessary without such cooperation.

If Republicans refuse to budge, Democrats will have to go ahead by themselves. Last week, the Senate parliamentarian confirmed that the ceiling could be raised using the so-called reconciliation process. Time is short, and if this is to work, the Democrats will need move quickly. To be sure, going it alone will require that they pay a price; it may be, though, the lowest-cost way out of the squeeze they are in. To make the most of that outlay, they should abolish the ceiling rather than just resetting it at a level that will cause this nightmare to recur a couple years from now. If the arcane rules of the Senate or other considerations prevent them from abolishing it outright, they should raise it to a stratospheric height, taking it out of consideration for a long time to come.

The principled case for such a move is clear. Congress and the president set the spending and tax policies of the federal government. The Treasury doesn't get to separately decide how much it's going to borrow: That decision has already been made. Over the years, spending has almost always exceeded revenues, and to finance the resulting deficits, the Treasury has had to borrow. But periodically this process runs afoul of the statutory limit on the debt the Treasury can issue. Once the limit is reached, and the Treasury has exhausted various delaying maneuvers, the government will be forced to default.

The Treasury can borrow at the financial market's most preferred rates because no one has ever seriously questioned its ability to meet its obligations in full and on time. Through wars, financial crises, and pandemics, the Treasury has always been true to its word. If that were no longer so, investors would build a risk premium into Treasury borrowing rates. For decades to come, future taxpayers would pay for the mistakes of today.

Some argue that a "partial" default might not be so bad. Maybe Treasury could delay payments essential to the fight against COVID-19, or benefits for food-stamp recipients, or salaries for air-traffic controllers, while prioritizing payments to bondholders, thereby safeguarding the Treasury's position as a risk-free borrower. Sound like a political winner? I don't think so either.

The best argument in defense of the debt ceiling is that it offers a periodic opportunity to exert fiscal discipline. As nonsensical as it might seem to tempt Congress to renege on commitments, including ones of long standing, maybe the debt ceiling interrupts the nation's progress toward fiscal irresponsibility. Yet the record of persistently rising debt hardly supports the theory. The right time to impose fiscal discipline is when the country makes its choices on taxes and spending.

Finally, you might think periodic debt-ceiling crises are mere theater that nobody need take seriously. Trouble is, the threat to let the government default would exert no force in political fights unless it had at least a shred of plausibility. Granted, the worst outcome might be unlikely, but it's unacceptable that such a thing is even possible.

Moderate senators might be uncomfortable voting to either abolish the ceiling or render it irrelevant by raising it to some outlandish number. But if they have the courage to do so, they will have one great talking point: Thanks to their efforts, the nation's financial future will be more secure. That should count for something. Regardless of whether they're conservatives, liberals, or somewhere in between, voters should be pleased that Congress finally acted to stop the insanity.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pandora Papers focus on corruption abroad, but what about thieving here?

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

My first reaction when I read the secret details from the Pandora Papers about how the world's rich hide their assets was: What else is new?

Do we need 11.9 million records leaked from 14 firms in the offshore financial services industries and an international consortium of investigative journalists including media partners like The Washington Post to tell us that Vladimir Putin's alleged mistress bought a luxury apartment in Monaco? Or that Jordan's king amassed $100 million in concealed property in Malibu, California, London and Washington? Ditto for Azerbaijan or Kenya?

Kremlin corruption under Putin and his oligarchs is legendary, and any Jordanian can talk of financial folderol in the royal palace. Is anyone startled when the investigators claim to have information on more than 330 politicians and public officials from over 90 countries and territories, including many leaders?

No, because we—myself included—have become too inured to this stuff. In 2016 the Panama Papers, a similar investigative journalism cull, laid bare the corruption of the offshore banking industry, and nothing much happened. Now the Pandora Papers claim to have dirt on twice as many public officials. So?

Indeed, spiraling public corruption has not only become the new normal abroad but is ensconced at home, where the Trump presidency made it a central feature of the White House. In fact, what bothered me most, in my initial reading of the Pandora Papers' details, was that they didn't focus enough on corruption here.

So I turned to Sarah Chayes, a leading expert on global and U.S. corruption networks and the links between them and author of "Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security, followed by On Corruption in America, and What Is at Stake."

"I am disappointed in the anti-corruption movement for not coming to grips with how we parallel corruption in other countries," she told me, "and for not taking on corruption power structures in our own [Western] countries."

Chayes came up against the links between U.S. and developing world corruption networks in Afghanistan, where I first met her in 2009 in Kabul dressed in military fatigues. She had already run a development organization in Kandahar for several years and then had helped establish an anti-corruption task force as a special adviser to Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the commander of international troops in Afghanistan.

Her anti-corruption efforts, and those of military officials who backed her, were thwarted by networks of Afghan officials, who reinvented their relatives as businessmen, and U.S. policies that fed piles of money to these Afghan networks for aid and training.

What she learned there informs how she regards the Pandora Papers exposé.

U.S. aid officials knew their money was disappearing, but never explored the links between Afghan ministers and governors and heads of companies that got to bid on U.S. contracts. U.S. contractors and consultants padded their budgets and proposed projects that were clearly unworkable but earned them a hefty overhead.

Afghanistan's elites were grouped in networks of political leaders, businessmen, and criminals. "They were incredibly successful at enriching themselves," she says, "but were not even trying to govern."

These corrupt networks were similar to Kremlin elites, where oligarchs close to Putin fatten off the state in networks intertwined with criminals who often act as enforcers. Similar patterns no doubt fit leaders of other failing states incriminated by the Pandora Papers.

"Afghanistan brings it all together in a profound way," says Chayes, who recently wrote a Foreign Affairs article headlined "Afghanistan's Corruption Was Made in America." "It was not just a foreign policy disaster. It is a mirror of our system, which is more corrupt than many of us are willing to admit."

Chayes worries that a focus on corruption abroad "reinforces the idea that the kleptocrats are over there. It is a way of distancing."

This takes American minds off a series of immense economic and military failures caused by networks of businessmen, contractors, deregulators, and politicians dating back to the 1980s.

Who remembers the Reagan-era deregulation that led to the collapse of the savings and loan industry? Or the Clinton era's kowtow to reckless bankers who brought us the financial crisis of 2008? That nearly led to the collapse of the global economy, and cost millions of Americans their homes, but never led to the conviction of a single banker.

U.S. networks, Chayes says, include officials in a Defense Department procurement system where former senior officials cycle to companies that get big government contracts. The networks also include the richest donors in what has become a pay-to-play political system, encouraged by the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision.

And the corruption network centered for four years in a Trump White House in which the former president actually made pay-to-play an official policy, by encouraging U.S. and foreign politicians to stay at his hotels, resorts and golf courses while refusing to divest himself of his assets or disclose his tax returns.

So it's fine for the Pandora Papers to open the box on foreign states and their offshore havens, but better to focus on U.S. corruption. Let's lay bare more than one South Dakota tax haven. Let's check out corruption networks that are endangering America's political future, hastening environmental catastrophe, and prolonging the pandemic—before we also become a failed state.

It's time Biden started making good on his big climate change promises

By JOHN HORNING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Just seven days into President Joe Biden's administration, he declared that the United States must "meet the moment" and raise our "climate ambition." He backed that sentiment up with a set of sweeping executive orders directing the government to place the climate crisis at the center of domestic and foreign policy decisions. It was a welcome change from past presidents who have too often waited until the end of their terms to take any bold action to protect the environment.

To many in the conservation movement, Biden's words sent a signal that perhaps the U.S. was finally willing to address the climate crisis with the urgency it demands. However, now eight months later, Biden's climate signal has not only faded—it's been replaced by a series of confounding mixed messages.

On Sept. 20, a federal judge in California rebuked the Biden administration in a lawsuit involving the failure to protect the Joshua tree, a species so iconic in the Western landscape that a national park bears its name. WildEarth Guardians brought this suit because the Trump administration refused to list the tree as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act—despite all available scientific evidence indicating that Joshua trees will be in danger of extinction by the end of this century from climate-change-driven habitat loss, wildfire and other stressors.

The Trump decision not to protect the Joshua tree was fundamentally grounded in climate change denial. The Biden administration went along with that position and defended it in court. Judge Otis D. Wright II, appointed by George W. Bush, ruled that the Department of the Interior acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in ignoring the scientific evidence of climate-change-related threats to the survival of the species.

The ruling was handed down one day before Biden took the stage at the United Nations General Assembly and asked, "Will we meet the threat of challenging climate—the challenging climate we're all feeling already ravaging every part of our world with extreme weather?"

As the executive director of the organization that brought the Joshua tree case, I welcome all allies. Still, I was surprised that a judge appointed by a Republican president would understand the effect of climate change on an imperiled species better than the Biden administration.

Donald Trump spent four years eviscerating our environmental safety nets through the gutting of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental laws. Environmental and public interest groups filed lawsuit after lawsuit to challenge those decisions and many of the cases outlasted the Trump administration.

Disturbingly, when presented with the opportunity to reverse course, the current administration has elected on multiple occasions to defend these policies in court, wasting federal resources and contravening Biden's own mandate to raise our climate ambitions.

In late August, the Interior Department finalized a Trump proposal to lease 80 million acres of public waters in the Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas extraction. Weeks later, the agency drafted a separate plan to open 700,000 acres of public lands to fracking, the majority being in the Rocky Mountain states, including my home state of New Mexico.

Both actions came despite Biden's own executive order placing a moratorium on new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or in offshore waters. In its environmental documentation on the gulf sale, the Biden administration went so far as to say that a recent United Nations report highlighting the severity of the climate crisis "does not present sufficient cause" to reconsider the Trump decision.

To be clear, Trump didn't merely gut environmental laws, he hollowed out the institutions that would enforce the few remaining protections left. Thus, the impact of Biden not restoring those laws isn't just damaging to wildlife, clean water and the climate—it further corrodes the morale of the civil servants charged with carrying them out.

That's why we desperately need the president to direct his Cabinet secretaries to move more aggressively to use the "whole of government"—as he said in his Jan. 27 climate executive order—to protect our endangered planet. Moreover, we need citizens to raise their voices and demand accountability from our political leaders.

We will be joining partners in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 11 for People vs. Fossil Fuels, a week of direct action led by Indigenous, brown and Black communities living on the front lines of the climate emergency. The demands are clear: Biden must direct agencies to reject fossil fuel projects and start treating the climate crisis like the emergency it is.

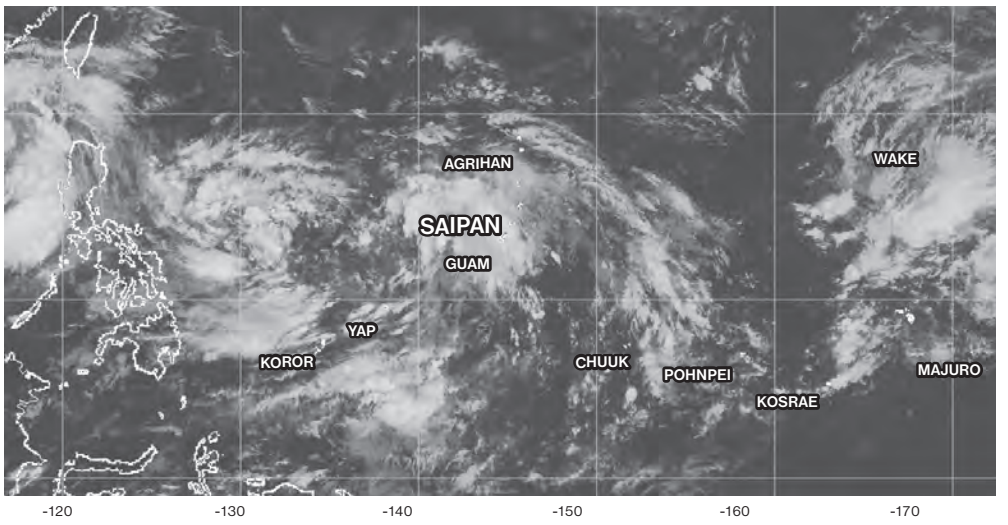
We're asking him to live up to his commitments. That could begin with standing up for the right side in court, but it must not stop there.

John Horning is the executive director of WildEarth Guardians, a nonprofit organization working to protect and restore the wildlife and the wild places of the American West.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Cloudy with numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Highs around 86. Chance of showers 70 percent.	Cloudy with numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. lows around 76. Highs around 85. Chance of showers 70 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of showers 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of showers 40 percent.
86º / 70º	85º / 76º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º



PICTURE TIME: 7:03 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overcast skies, moderate southeast winds and isolated thunderstorms prevail over the Marianas waters. Latest radar shows spotty showers to the south reaching Guam later this morning. Overall, the monsoon trough will continue to bring heavy localized showers for the Marianas over the next few days. Combined seas for the coastal waters

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Rain Shower	83 / 78 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	88 / 79 °F
Yap	Cloudy	83 / 79 °F
Chuuk	Cloudy	87 / 78 °F
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86 / 75 °F
Kosrae	Rain	83 / 78 °F
Majuro	Cloudy	85 / 82 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	5:59 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:34	7:31 PM	-
Saturday	8:35	8:20 PM	-
Sunday	9:39	9:14 PM	-
Monday	10:43	10:11 PM	-
Tuesday	10:43	10:11 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain	61 / 55 °F
Beijing	Fair	67 /47 °F
Hong Kong	Fair	88 / 79 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	79 / 75 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	66 / 54 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	64 / 62 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	89 / 79 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	62 / 64 °F
Miami	Fair	81 / 79 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	83 / 81 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	85 / 70 °F
Paris	Clear	64 / 45 °F
Busan	Sunny	81 / 70 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	68 / 57 °F
Salem	Cloudy	72 / 67 °F
San Francisco	Rain Shower	56 / 54 °F
Seoul	Cloudy	71 / 62 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	73 / 69 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	68 / 64 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:37 AM	Low Tide	0.09
8:49 AM	High Tide	2.01
2:56 PM	Low Tide	0.62
8:32 PM	High Tide	2.00

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Community Guidance Center hosts mental health activity

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Parishioners painted and learned stress management skills during a mental health awareness outreach event at the Mount Carmel Cathedral's Joeten & Daidai Social Hall that was attended by 23 parishioners.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center, in collaboration with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, hosted a mental health awareness outreach event last Sept. 30 at the Mount Carmel Cathedral's Joeten & Daidai Social Hall, attended by 23 parishioners.

During the outreach, the CGC facilitated a stress management presentation, sharing information such as different types of stress, recognizing signs and symptoms of stress, and local and national resources on where to seek help. Additionally, participants were able to create a toolkit of practical coping skills they can perform at home or work.

Following the stress management presentation, the CGC provided participants an opportunity to participate in "coffee and paint," which focused on promoting healthy coping skills among adults and their families. The event was funded through support from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Response Grant.

For more information on mental health training and outreach events, contact the CHCC Community Guidance Center at (670) 323-6560/1. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
HR 2021-01

CEDA
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670 234-6245/6293/7145/7146
Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

Position: Economic Development Manager, exempt
Annual Salary: Minimum $70,000.00
Opening Date: September 8, 2021
Closing Date: October 15, 2021
Closing Time: 4:00 P.M.

The Application for Employment, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be obtained online at www.**developcnmi.com** or at the CEDA offices during regular business hours from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Saipan CDA Building, Unit 205, Beach Road, Oleai
Rota Tamara & Seven Brothers, Songsong
Tinian Northern Marianas College, Bldg. B, Rm. E, San Jose

All applications must be complete and submitted to the CEDA main office in Saipan or emailed to admin@developcnmi.com.

For more inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 ext. 310 or by email at c.kintol@developcnmi.com

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/CGC-CCP-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 11, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE – SAIPAN"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-SOC/HT-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 22, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROFESSIONAL SERVICES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB22-CHCC/FINANCE-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 22, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER STATIONS"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3r3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting** on Tuesday, **October 12, 2021** at **5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the CHCC Administrative Office, Conference Room 3. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
  D. Adoption of Agenda
II. Public Comments*
III. Discussion
  A. CHCC Current Billing and Arrears
  B. CHCC's Request for Six (6) Months Extension of Payment Agreement dated September 11, 2020 for CHCC's Utility Services, and CUC's Response
IV. Executive Session**
V. Announcements
VI. Adjournment

_____/s/_____
JOVITA SN. PAULINO, ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

* All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit a written or oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to thirty (30) minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-001-22
BIDS SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 29, 2021, TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) UNIT HEAVY DUTY TRUCK FOR CPA SEAPORT POLICE

THE BID PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES THE VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATION IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 01, 2021 AT THE CPA ADMIN OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL BUILDING.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THE BIDS TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **"PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-22".** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020, §40-50-1015, & §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, FINANCIAL INTEREST, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (670) 234-5962
WEBSITE:WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL CONSTRUCTION
Project No. CPA-SA-007-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Commuter Terminal Construction, CPA-SA-007-19.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Angie Aguigui, at the CPA Administration Office at angie.aguigui@cnmiports.com

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office or emailed to wprater@cnmiports.com by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Monday, October 25, 2021.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: October 6, 2021

Mount Carmel School band director Julian Greening takes a group photo with all student members of the MCS Beginning Band, Concert Band, and Wind Orchestra. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

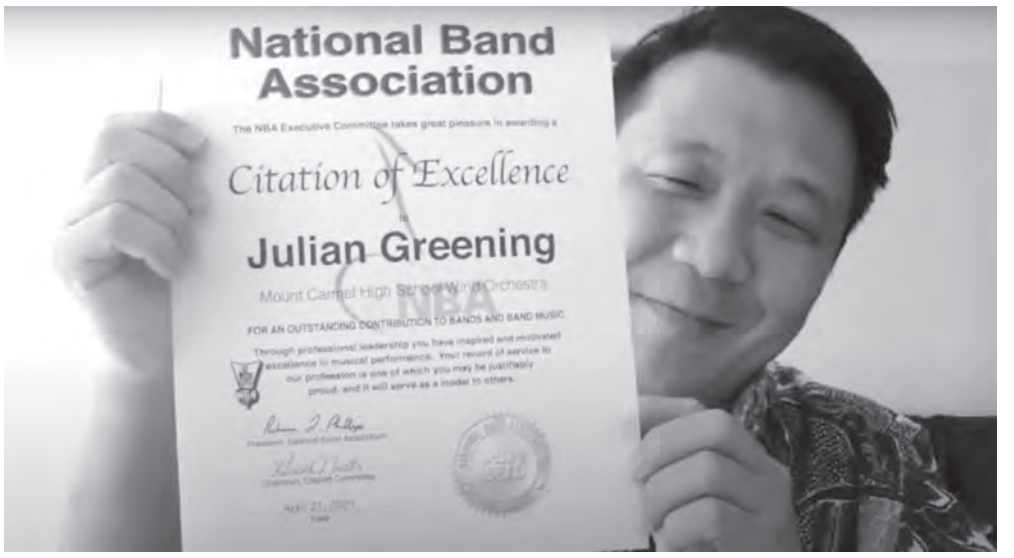
Band association honors MCS band director with award

The National Band Association recently awarded Julian Greening, Mount Carmel School band director and maestro, with the "Citation of Excellence."

In a virtual award presentation of the award, the National Band Association's high school representative, Chad Kamei, acknowledged Greening's efforts, saying, "NBA's executive committee takes great pleasure in awarding a citation of excellence to Julian Greening of Mount Carmel High School's Wind Orchestra, for an outstanding contribution to band and band music. Through his professional leadership, he has inspired and motivated excellence in musical performance. His record of service in this profession is one he may be justifiably proud of and will serve as a model to others."

"It has been a joy to work with my students, other local artists, and bands on Saipan," said Greening. "I am humbled by the National Band Association's recognition of my efforts, but I must also thank my students for their hard work and the support of their parents and the administration for trusting my vision for this program."

Originally from Japan, Greening relocated to the CNMI to serve as the school's music instructor and band director on Aug. 21, 2017. Since joining the MCS family, Greening has developed a thriving band program that has won multiple awards, including two silver awards at the Tumon Bay Music Festival in 2020 and two superior ratings at the online band competition hosted by All National Music in 2021. Additionally, Greening connected MCS to other bands and artists, including the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band and Su-san Band.



The National Band Association's high school representative, Chad Kamei, presents the Citation of Excellence certificate to Mount Carmel School band director Julian Greening during a virtual ceremony. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

When asked about his next steps, Greening said, "Many of our students started in this band program as early as elementary. Our next step will be to promote our presence as a program internationally and prepare students who are considering music as a profession. We have our next performance at [the] Saipan Ensemble Festival on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, at [the] American Memorial Park Amphitheatre starting at 4pm. Admission is free but please don't forget to bring a mask with you."

NBA also awarded a "Citation of Excellence" to school partner Atsuko Eck, who is the concert band director for the Saipan Pacific Winds.

The former president of the National Band Association, Dr. Linda Moorhouse, said at the virtual award presentation that the "Citation of Excellence" is awarded "to outstanding concert band directors who are recognized as having a very distinguished level of accomplishment. The award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of bands and band music."

Founded in 1960, the National Band Association is the largest professional organization for bands in the world. Its purpose is to promote the musical and educational significance of bands and is dedicated to reaching high standards of excellence for bands and band music. ***(MCS)***

MCS names Knights of the Month

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for earning Knight of the Month for the month of September.

Knight of the Month is awarded to students who continue to demonstrate some of the highest qualities of an MCS Knight, which include excellence in academics, character, behavior, leadership, and attendance. Students selected as a Knight of the Month are eligible for the Knight of the Year award, which will be announced in May 2022.

- K4 - Averyrose Malia Allen
- K5A- Isaiah Francisco Villagomez
- K5B - Vyron Andrew Estella
- 1A - Vincent Salavaria
- 1B - Jayven Xander Sablan
- 2A - Youngwoo Stella Choi
- 2B - Jake Hiram Maratita Jr.
- 3A - Chloe Jane Militante
- 3B - Friella Huanne Dela Santa
- 4A - Miana Dela Cruz
- 4B - Ava Carmina Sablan
- 5A - Logan Matsumoto
- 5B - Jaden Shyne Fujihira
- 6A - Ciana Lei Demapan
- 6B - Janessa Francine Arriola
- 7A - Hope Gianna McQuay
- 7B - Christopher James Dela Cruz
- 7C - Stephanie Joyce Sevilla
- 8A - Therese Joy Ogo
- 8B - Chae Eun Kim
- 8C - Gavril Santiago
- 9A - Princes Amanda Habal
- 9B - Jee Woo Son
- 9C - Quimari Liwerscheng Duenas
- 10A - Maria Torres
- 10B - Brandon Lee
- 10C - Tyana Kisha Tesiro
- 11A - Brissa Hunter
- 11B - Yurihana Rosa Sasamoto
- 12A - Kaia Travilla
- 12B - Jihwan Ryu
- 12C - Vaughn Mallari ***(MCS)***

Mount Carmel School's Knight of the Month for the month of September pose for a group picture. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MTEC, MVA begin school outreach with Rota students

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority kicked off their annual school presentations on tourism with students at Dr. Rita S. Inos Jr./Sr. High School on Monday, Oct. 4.

Thirty-seven students representing the entire 10th grade of the school joined the presentation, led by acting MTEC chairperson Vicky Benavente.

"We thank [school] principal Tanya King and the teachers and students for welcoming us again this year, and we look forward to visiting the other high schools over the next few weeks," said Benavente.

She began the presentation with a general overview of the Marianas tourism industry. MTEC board member Catherine Perry shared general standards visitors look for to feel confident a destination is safe and details of the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan program and safety protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Marianas. MVA Rota Field Operations supervisor David Atalig informed students about the responsibilities of the MVA Rota office, and MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda detailed the overall responsibilities of the MVA in promoting the Marianas.

"Our youth are important contributors to our tourism industry, as well as being our future workforce and leaders," said MVA managing director and MTEC board member Priscilla Maratita Iakopo. "Marianas Visitors Authority is pleased to again partner with MTEC on all their activities this year to educate our youth on the importance of tourism, how it benefits them, and how they can support it,"

Tenth-graders at Dr. Rita S. Inos Jr./Sr. High in Songsong, Rota, learn about tourism and the Marianas Visitors Authority on Oct. 4, 2021. Pictured are Marianas Tourism Education Council acting chairperson Vicky Benavente, center in blue, and school principal Tanya King, in white, students, and other MTEC and MVA representatives. MTEC

MTEC presents annually to public schools and is targeting 10th grade in school year 2021-2022. Other MTEC Bboard members are Martin Duenas (MVA), Dr. Galvin Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (Pacific Development Inc.), and Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort). Dr. Yunzi Zhang of the NMC School of Business also volunteers with the council and donated school supplies for the Rota outreach. ***(MTEC)***

Chelu Alynez Enterprise is latest ProaPerks Partner

Jewelry sales company Chelu Alynez Enterprise, which is located at the Kada Dia Market in Chalan Kanoa, is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner. NMC

Jewelry sales company Chelu Alynez Enterprise is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations the provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount (not valid with any other discounts) when purchasing anything at Chelu Alynez Enterprise, which is located at the Kada Dia Market in Chalan Kanoa.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks. Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 • Email: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 21-0005
INSTALLATION & RETROFIT OF COURTYARD
OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE
BLDG O.

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the Installation and Retrofit of Courtyard outdoor learning space, Bldg. O, Saipan Campus.

The bid specifications and Scope of Work packet may be pick up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Friday, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Electronic packet, please send a request to Anita Camacho @ ppmo@marianas.edu.

A Pre-bid meeting and Site visit is scheduled for 09:00am October 01, 2021, NMC Conference Room, attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Hard copies Bid submission
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P,
As Terlaje Campus Saipan
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, October 08, 2021, ChST

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through US Department of Education, Emergency Assistance to Institution of Higher Education Grant, award no. P938T190005. In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

/s/Anita Camacho
Procurement Manager

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW22-ITB-003
SUBMISSION DATE: November 10, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"BEACH ROAD IMPROVEMENT, PHASE 2, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **October 08, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 26, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 03, 2021** to **Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MICHAEL A. BORJA
Acting Secretary, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Ph: (670) 234-6866/9447/7670

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Part 400 § 100-90-401[1] of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) Section 8 Administrative Plan for Rental Assistance Programs, this is to inform the general public that NMHC is opening its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program's (HCVP) waiting list starting October 19, 2021. The waitlist will remain open until it reaches its maximum number of applicants. Interested families may pick up an application at the NMHC Main Office on Saipan or the Field Offices on Tinian and Rota, or visit our website at www.nmhcgov.net to download an application. Please submit your application in person at the NMHC Main Office on Saipan or the Field Offices on Tinian and Rota, from Monday through Friday (except holidays) between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. NMHC is not accepting On-Line or Email submission of applications as of this time.

NMHC Main Office	**Monday – Friday**	**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**
Tinian Field Office	**Monday – Friday**	**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**
Rota Field Office	**Monday – Friday**	**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

NMHC Housing Specialists will review the applications and formally contact applicants to schedule an eligibility appointment. For more information, please contact NMHC at telephone numbers 234-6866 or 234-9446 (Saipan), 433-9213 (Tinian), or 532-9410 (Rota).

[1] NMHC shall issue a public notice advising the general public that applications for Section 8 are being accepted. The public notice shall contain the places, date(s), and time, application procedures and any limitations on who may apply and shall be published in a local newspaper of general circulation.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Business

BEA CABRERA
Jhen's Sweet Corner's interiors invite you to sit down, relax and have a slice of cake and a drink.

Jhen's Sweet Corner

for unique get-togethers

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Be ready with your phone camera because Jhen's Sweet Corner shop is always ready for that photo opportunity. BEA CABRERA

BEA CABRERA
Jhen's Sweet Corner is located in Dan Dan beside Maranatha's Christian Store.

In British culture, afternoon tea with family or friends is a part of daily routine, the perfect time to catch up or celebrate special occasions.

That is now also possible on Saipan, with Jhen's Sweet Corner in Dan Dan perfecting the art of afternoon tea by creating a dainty ambiance paired with freshly baked cakes, pastries, and tea.

Owner and baker Jennifer Ortiz said the shop and the idea of afternoon teas literally started at home. "I used my baking skills to make customized birthday cakes for my children, and friends really liked the quality, taste, and décor, which led me to pursue a home-based business. My niche was being available online and making customized cakes by executing customer's ideas or vision into reality on cake. Then I branched out to baking other pastries and more friends and their friends started inquiring where my shop is or if I have a venue that they can visit. These encouraged me to finally put up a shop three years after I started an online business, with a unique feature: offering afternoon tea packages," she said.

Jhen's Sweet Corner opened in April this year and can sit 15 to 20 people. The pink surrounding and interiors that consist of flowers on the walls, pastel-colored tables and chairs, a velvet sofa and a bright chandelier makes a vivid impression, provides an instant photo opportunity, and will make you just sit down and enjoy a slice of cake and tea.

"We have an Afternoon Tea Package for adults and children: $20 per head for adults that includes one mini cake, sugar cookies, French macarons, cupcakes, tarts, crème brulée, croissant and unlimited hot/iced tea; and $10 each for children that includes cupcakes, cookies, French macarons, brownies and unlimited hot or cold iced tea," Ortiz said.

"We accommodate private parties or meetings, no charge [for] the venue as long as you avail of the tea package and have a minimum of 15 people. If they want to bring their own food, we charge $100 to rent the place and that is good for two hours," Ortiz added.

If you simply want to have desserts and drinks or buy a box for your family to enjoy at home, you are welcome, Ortiz said. "We have ready cakes and pastries available like our ube, tiramisu, and red velvet cakes, French macarons, tarts, brownies, and cupcakes."

BEA CABRERA
Freshly-baked cakes and pastries are available anytime.

Jhen's Sweet Corner is located beside Maranatha Christian Store in Dan Dan. They are open Tuesday to Saturday from 1pm to 7pm and Sunday from 1pm to 7pm. For more information, call (670) 2862733. You can also reach them on FaceBook and Instagram: Jhen's Sweet Corner.

Los Angeles OKs one of strictest US vaccination mandates

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles leaders on Wednesday approved one of the nation's strictest vaccine mandates—a sweeping measure that requires the shots for everyone entering bars, restaurants, nail salons, gyms or even a Lakers game.

The City Council voted 11-2 in favor of the ordinance that will require proof of full vaccination for patrons and workers starting Nov. 4.

Mayor Eric Garcetti signed it Wednesday afternoon.

"Vaccinating more Angelenos is our only way out of this pandemic, and we must do everything in our power to keep pushing those numbers up," Garcetti said in a statement. "These new rules will encourage more people to get the shot, and make businesses safer for workers and customers—so that we can save more lives.

The move came after the City Council postponed a vote last week to deal with concerns ranging from who could be fined for violations to whether employees could end up in fist-fights when they have to serve as vaccine door monitors.

Some critics charge that a mandate would amount to segregation of those who cannot or refuse to be vaccinated. Others call it unenforceable.

Business trade groups have said the city mandate will sow confusion because Los Angeles County's own vaccine rules—which apply both in Los Angeles and in dozens of surrounding communities—are less sweeping.

Cities, however, are allowed to pass rules more stringent than the county's

City Council members who support the ordinance said it is aimed at reducing the risk of new COVID-19 surges. The nation's second-most populous city faced a huge rise in infections and hospitalizations last winter and a smaller surge this summer linked to the spread of the highly contagious delta variant.

The ordinance would require people to be fully vaccinated to enter indoor public spaces including shopping malls, restaurants, bars, gyms, sports arenas, museums, spas, nail salons, indoor city facilities and other locations. Current vaccine eligibility includes people age 12 and up. Children under that age aren't yet eligible for the vaccine.

Negative coronavirus tests within 72 hours of entry to those places would be required for people with religious or medical exemptions for vaccinations.

Customers without proof can still use outdoor facilities and can briefly enter a business to use a restroom or pick up a food order.

Council President Nury Martinez has said it is clear that the vaccines work but too many people remain unvaccinated despite widespread availability and door-to-door campaigns to vaccinate more people. She called the mandate "a necessary step towards returning to normalcy" and the lifting of mask requirements and other restrictions.

The ordinance came at a time when COVID-19 cases are plunging while political ambitions in Los Angeles are rising—two council members are running for mayor, as is the city attorney who wrote the proposal.

Councilman and mayoral candidate Joe Buscaino voted against the mandate. Last week during a council meeting he challenged the measure as being "clear as mud" regarding enforcement.

Buscaino also had noted that the conflict between the city's measure and county's vaccination mandate, which only covers patrons and workers at indoor bars, wineries, breweries, lounges and nightclubs.

He failed to win several amendments to the measure, including one that would make it a crime to harass employees who try to enforce it.

Councilman John Lee also opposed the measure, calling it "punitive toward businesses," which are required to request customer proof of vaccination. Businesses can be given a warning for a first offense but fined up to $5,000 for repeated violations of the rules, starting on Nov. 29.

Off The Wall

2,700-year-old toilet found in Jerusalem was a luxury

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli archaeologists have found a rare ancient toilet in Jerusalem dating back more than 2,700 years, when private bathrooms were a luxury in the holy city, authorities said Tuesday.

The Israeli Antiquities Authority said the smooth, carved limestone toilet was found in a rectangular cabin that was part of a sprawling mansion overlooking what is now the Old City. It was designed for comfortable sitting, with a deep septic tank dug underneath.

"A private toilet cubicle was very rare in antiquity, and only a few were found to date," said Yaakov Billig, the director of the excavation.

"Only the rich could afford toilets," he said, adding that a famed rabbi once suggested that to be wealthy is "to have a toilet next to his table."

YOLI SCHWARTZ/ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY VIA AP

In this photo provided by Israel Antiquities Authority shows a rare ancient toilet in Jerusalem dating back more than 2,700 years Jerusalem, when private bathrooms were a luxury in the holy city, Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021.

Animal bones and pottery found in the septic tank could shed light on the lifestyle and diet of people living at that time, as well as ancient diseases, the antiquities authority said.

The archaeologists found stone capitals and columns from the era, and said there was evidence of a nearby garden with orchards and aquatic plants—more evidence that those living there were quite wealthy.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

A wedding with flare: 2 men fined over Coast Guard search

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Two Rhode Island men authorities say touched off a needless and expensive ocean search-and-rescue effort when they fired maritime distress flares to celebrate a friend's wedding have agreed to pay $5,000 each to settle the case, federal prosecutors said Tuesday. The Coast Guard and the town of New Shoreham spent more than $100,000 combined responding to the flares off Block Island on June 6, 2020, when there was no one in distress, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office in Providence. Perry Phillips, 31, and Benjamin Foster, 33, "knowingly and willfully communicated a false distress message to the Coast Guard," according to the civil complaint, and "caused the Coast Guard to attempt to save lives and property when no help was needed." The men borrowed a flare gun and flares, set out on the water in a small skiff, and fired three flares when they thought they could be seen by people at their friend's wedding reception, prosecutors said. They recorded their actions to post on social media, prosecutors said. People who saw the flares reported them to the New Shoreham harbormaster, who in turn alerted the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard deployed a boat and two helicopters for the search.

Zebras escape from Illinois pumpkin farm, snarling traffic

PINGREE GROVE, Ill. (AP)—Two zebras that escaped from a suburban Chicago pumpkin farm had travelers on a state highway doing double takes as the exotic animals hit the road during their brief taste of freedom. The young male and female zebras escaped Sunday from a pen inside an indoor zoo at Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch and Apple Orchard in Pingree Grove. They crossed Route 47 several times and wandered through farm fields in the northwest Chicago suburb. Illinois State Police were called due to the ensuring chase being near Interstate 90, The Daily Herald reported. Other police agencies also joined the pursuit of the striped escapees. A passenger in a car filmed the animals running into a field and posted the video on TikTok. "They look like zebras. They got stripes. They are!" the driver exclaims in the video. Kane County Undersheriff Pat Gengler said police blocked traffic several times in the area, worried that cars would strike the zebras or gawking motorists would get in accidents. After about two hours, workers with the pumpkin patch and the zoo tracked down the animals on all-terrain vehicles and captured both of them. The zebras, which are supplied to the pumpkin patch by another business, were not injured during the pursuit. "It was pretty exciting for a while. It was all hands on deck," said Jacob Goebbert, a farm employee.

Rare orange lobster saved and donated to an Arizona aquarium

PHOENIX (AP)—A rare orange lobster has found a home at an Arizona aquarium instead of becoming someone's dinner. The unique lobster was discovered over the summer by staff at the Japanese restaurant Nobu in Scottsdale, ABC15 reported Monday. The restaurant staff contacted the Odysea Aquarium and ultimately donated the crustacean. Dave Peranteau, the Odysea's director of animal care, said the chance of finding an orange lobster in the wild is one in 30 million and the aquarium is really fortunate to have it in its collection now. Due to its bright coloring, experts say the lobster would be considered an easy target for predators in the wild. They also say lobsters can live up to 100 years and grow to more than 3 feet (about 1 meter) long and weigh more than 40 pounds. The unnamed lobster is currently being cared for behind the scenes while the aquarium's staff prepares its habitat.

Science & Technology

Facebook blames global outage on error during routine maintenance

LONDON (AP)—The global outage that knocked Facebook and its other platforms offline for hours was caused by an error during routine maintenance, the company said.

Santosh Janardhan, Facebook's vice president of infrastructure, said in a blog post that Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp going dark was "caused not by malicious activity, but an error of our own making."

AP

This Feb. 19, 2014, file photo, shows WhatsApp and Facebook app icons on a smartphone in New York.

The problem occurred as engineers were carrying out day to day work on Facebook's global backbone network; the computers, routers and software in its data centers around the world along with the fiber-optic cables connecting them.

"During one of these routine maintenance jobs, a command was issued with the intention to assess the availability of global backbone capacity, which unintentionally took down all the connections in our backbone network, effectively disconnecting Facebook data centers globally," Janardhan said Tuesday.

Facebook's systems are designed to catch such mistakes but in this case a bug in the audit tool prevented it from properly stopping the command, Janardhan said.

That change also triggered a second problem that made things worse by making it impossible to reach Facebook's servers even though they were operational.

TECH Q&A: Ways to avoid the trackers that follow you online

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Q: I use a Windows 10 laptop, the Microsoft Edge Web browser and the privacy-oriented DuckDuckGo and Startpage search engines. When I most recently used the CCleaner program (which finds and deletes unneeded or unwanted software) it found only two Web trackers on my PC, down from the hundreds it usually finds. Why am I detecting fewer trackers?

A: Web trackers are typically put on your PC by commercial websites; they're designed to learn about your interests and what you might buy (see tinyurl.com/4upryjjx).

If you are finding fewer Web trackers, you may have enabled CCleaner's "smart cleaning" feature (see tinyurl.com/589wmwxk). It causes the program to automatically clean, or prompt you to clean, your PC and browser. As a result, the PC would accumulate fewer trackers.

Software updates are another possible cause. There may have been security changes made to the Edge browser (see tinyurl.com/c9bdhe6b for changes that are in progress) or the DuckDuckGo and Startpage search engines (read about their Web tracker blocking at tinyurl.com/ybw4yxss for DuckDuckGo and tinyurl.com/4n6c6sbm for Startpage.)

Clarification: Last week's column about using safe passwords referred to the 2020 hack of the SolarWinds IT firm, which allowed hackers to spy on the federal government. While the company's use of a simplistic server password was criticized in Congress, it was ultimately determined that the hackers had used another method to gain entry to SolarWinds' IT systems, and that the simple password had not been involved.

Q: I've lost the use of about a third of my Apple iTunes music, which I keep on two iPods. Due to a (2009) file format change, the older music won't play on other devices. Will DRM (Digital Rights Management) removal software give me access to this music again?

A: Yes. Any iTunes songs that were downloaded in 2009 or earlier are protected by DRM, which limits the devices they can be played on. DRM removal software can convert them to MP3s (see tinyurl.com/asbpekcs), which are not restricted and can be played on nearly any device.

You'll need to move the music from the iPods to a PC or Mac, the devices on which most DRM software runs. The iTunes program won't do that, so use non-Apple software for the transfer (see tinyurl.com/83u5zem2 for PC and Mac programs or tinyurl.com/7wrb9b8n for PC-only software.)

Q: I didn't get an instruction book with the iMac I bought three years ago. How can I get one?

A: The user manual should be stored on the Mac. In the Apple menu, click "about this Mac," then click "support." In the "macOS resources" section, click "user manual." But if you can't find what you need there, go to tinyurl.com/2np3x52m, click "desktops," and at the bottom of the page, click "load more results" until you find your specific Mac model. Click the word "essentials" next to your model. Click "table of contents."

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

1st trial in college admissions bribe scheme to head to jury

BOSTON (AP)—Two wealthy parents who are the first to stand trial in the college admissions bribery scandal used lies and money to steal coveted spots at prestigious schools their kids couldn't secure on their own, a prosecutor said Wednesday before jurors decide if the men are guilty.

Gamal Abdelaziz and John Wilson wanted a guarantee their kids would get into the school of their choice and agreed to use fraud and bribery to have them designated as athletic recruits to make that a reality, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Frank told jurors in his closing argument.

"These parents were not willing to take 'no' for an answer and to get to 'yes,' they crossed a line," Frank said. "And in crossing that line, they broke the law."

The case now will head to jurors more than two years after FBI agents arrested dozens of well-known parents, athletic coaches and others across the country in the scheme involving rigged test scores and bogus athletic credentials. Nearly four dozen people have already pleaded guilty in the case.

Abdelaziz and Wilson face charges including conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and honest services mail and wire fraud. Jurors are expected to begin deliberating on Thursday after the judge gives his instructions.

Lawyers for the pair have painted their clients as victims of a con man: the admissions consultant at the center of the scheme—Rick Singer—who never took the stand. The parents insist they knew nothing about bribes and false or embellished athletic credentials and that Singer led them to believe they were making legal donations to give their children a boost in the admissions process.

"John is not part of Singer's con. There is no evidence, not even a hint, that John figured out Singer's scam. The truth is simple: John is Singer's victim, not once but twice," Wilson's attorney, Michael Kendall, told jurors.

Abdelaziz, a former casino executive from Las Vegas, is charged with paying $300,000 to get his daughter into the University of Southern California as a basketball recruit. Wilson, a former Staples executive who now heads a Massachusetts private equity firm, is accused of paying $220,000 to have his son designated as a USC water polo recruit and an additional $1 million to buy his twin daughters' ways into Harvard and Stanford.

Prosecutors played jurors a slew of secretly recorded phone calls between Singer and the parents with the goal of proving that the parents not only knew their payments were bribes but were eager participants in the fraud. Singer, who began cooperating with investigators in 2018 in the hopes of getting a lighter punishment, has pleaded guilty but has yet to be sentenced.

UK High Court finds that Dubai ruler hacked ex-wife's phone

LONDON (AP)—The ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, hacked the phones of his ex-wife Princess Haya and her attorneys during the legal battle over custody of their two children, Britain's High Court found Wednesday.

Sheikh Mohammed, who is also vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, gave his "express or implied authority" to hack the phones of the princess and her attorneys using Pegasus spyware produced by NSO Group of Israel, the court said. The software is licensed exclusively to nation states for use by their security services.

NSO has been at the center of allegations that governments are abusing electronic surveillance technology to spy on political opponents, human rights activists and journalists.

The hacking of Princess Haya's phone came to light partly through the work of William Marczak, a fellow at Citizen Lab, a cybersecurity watchdog at the University of Toronto. In addition, NSO adviser Cherie Blair, the wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, contacted one of the princess' lawyers to inform her that the company suspected its software had been "misused" to hack into her phone.

AP

In this file photo dated Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum attends the 40th Gulf Cooperation Council Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The case highlights the danger posed by unregulated companies selling surveillance technology to "some of the world's most repressive governments," Marzcak told The Associated Press.

"If that situation is not addressed by governments, by tech companies and by other institutions, we could live in a world where this sort of thing gets targeted not just at the dissidents and the journalists and the ex-wives of the world, but perhaps ordinary folks might be targeted or could be vulnerable to this sort of surveillance," he said. "I think it's important to address this now before it becomes an even bigger problem."

Wednesday's decision is the latest episode in the long-running custody battle between Sheikh Mohammed, 72, and his estranged wife. Princess Haya, 47, fled to Britain with her children in April 2019, saying she had become terrified of her husband's threats and intimidation.

The ruling is important because Judge Andrew McFarlane has insisted throughout the case that Sheikh Mohammed needed to build trust with the court that he wouldn't take unilateral action to remove the children from their mother's care.

"The findings made in this judgment prove that he has behaved in a manner which will do the opposite of building trust," McFarlane said in the ruling. "The findings represent a total abuse of trust, and indeed an abuse of power, to a significant extent."

City seeks festival's return, Pharrell cites 'toxic energy'

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—Virginia Beach leaders want Pharrell Williams to bring his popular Something in the Water festival back next year, but the musician is reluctant, saying a "toxic energy" has run the city for too long and he wishes the city took a more proactive stance after a police officer fatally shot his cousin.

City leaders appealed to the Grammy-winning producer to restore the festival in 2022. In 2019, the festival brought $24 million to the local Hampton Roads economy. But Williams, who lived there as a child, wrote that he held the festival to ease racial tension, and he feels that the city isn't valuing his ideas for promoting "human rights for all."

"I wish the same energy I've felt from Virginia Beach leadership upon losing the festival would have been similarly channeled following the loss of my relative's life," Williams wrote in response. "I love my city, but for far too long it has been run by- and with toxic energy."

Williams' 25-year-old cousin, Donovon Lynch, was killed in March during a chaotic night in which 10 people were shot during separate incidents. Lynch's father filed a $50 million wrongful death lawsuit in June. In its response, the city said Lynch, who was Black, pointed a gun at the officer who shot him. The officer, identified as Solomon D. Simmons III, who also is Black, "feared for his life and the lives of other officers and citizens in the vicinity," the city said.

"We're hoping we can have a face-to-face meeting with Pharrell and go over his concerns and see what we can do to get things back on track," Mayor Bobby Dyer said. "By meeting in person and communicating, I am confident we can move in a better direction. That would be best to build those positive bridges."

Stepmom irked by husband's nicknames for grown kids

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been happily married for 10 years. This is a second marriage for both of us. We don't have children together, but my husband has grown daughters in their 50s from a previous marriage. Generally, we have good relationships with each other.

My problem is, my husband still calls—and refers to—his daughters by their childhood nicknames, "Peanut" and "Poopsie." They reciprocate by calling him by silly names instead of "Dad" or "Father." Seeing these adult women reverting to childhood drives me up a wall. They talk and act like little girls and use baby talk with each other, too.

I have shared with my husband more than once that this "innocent" nickname game keeps his daughters stuck in old childhood patterns, while keeping other family members out of the conversation. How would you suggest I handle this?

FEELING LIKE AN OUTSIDER

DEAR "OUTSIDER": Because you have shared with your husband "more than once" that you feel sidelined when his daughters do this, and nothing has changed, try this: Arrange to visit with friends or schedule an activity you enjoy while your husband's "girls" visit their daddy. If you do, it may be less frustrating than trying to change them.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been happily married (with some ups and downs) for 30 years. We are in our 50s and have two grown children. We enjoy an active love life except for one thing. He refuses to kiss me passionately before or during lovemaking. When I met him 35 years ago, he was the best kisser! Kissing helps me to get in the mood, but he says we're "too old" for that.

I have talked to him about it, to no avail. My first thought was that my breath was bad, but he assured me it wasn't. Is this normal? Am I asking too much? When we're watching a movie together, I will say to him when the actors kiss, "They're doing it, why can't we?" and he rolls his eyes. Should I let this go, as it seems like such a small issue?

KISSED OFF IN MONTANA

DEAR KISSED OFF: Considerate couples who love each other want to give each other pleasure. That your husband would withhold something you have told him you need to enhance your intimacy is selfish. I do not think you should "let this go," because if you would write to me about it, it ISN'T a small issue. If he can't explain his change in behavior to you, he should explain it WITH you—in the office of a marriage and family therapist.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 45 years, but the love of my life is now in a memory care facility because of Alzheimer's. We have always sent out greeting cards during the holidays. I'm now wondering how I should sign them this year —with both our names as usual or just my own?

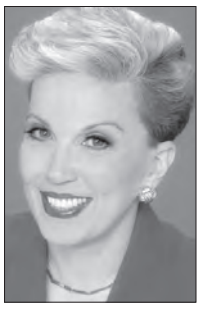
WONDERING IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR WONDERING: I vote for sending the cards out with both of your names. There will come a time when you send them from just yourself, but until his passing, his name should be included.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

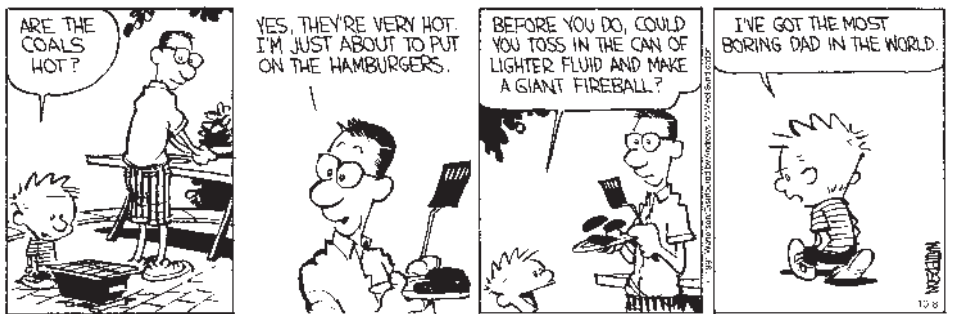


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

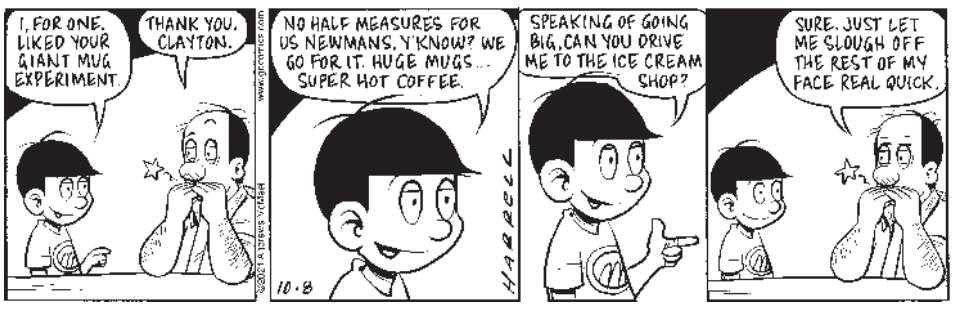

ARE THE COALS HOT?
YES, THEY'RE VERY HOT. I'M JUST ABOUT TO PUT ON THE HAMBURGERS.
BEFORE YOU DO, COULD YOU TOSS IN THE CAN OF LIGHTER FLUID AND MAKE A GIANT FIREBALL?
I'VE GOT THE MOST BORING DAD IN THE WORLD.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

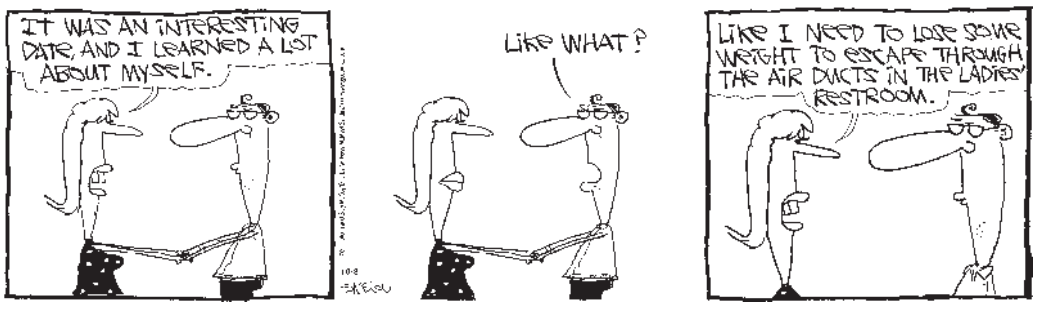
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I, FOR ONE, LIKED YOUR GIANT MUG EXPERIMENT.
THANK YOU, CLAYTON.
NO HALF MEASURES FOR US NEWMANS, Y'KNOW? WE GO FOR IT. HUGE MUGS... SUPER HOT COFFEE.
SPEAKING OF GOING BIG, CAN YOU DRIVE ME TO THE ICE CREAM SHOP?
SURE. JUST LET ME SLOUGH OFF THE REST OF MY FACE REAL QUICK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IT WAS AN INTERESTING DATE, AND I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT MYSELF.
LIKE WHAT?
LIKE I NEED TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE AIR DUCTS IN THE LADIES' RESTROOM.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jam holder
4 Sediment
8 Carpet type
12 Hearty brew
13 Misfortunes
14 Circle dance
15 Vice
17 "Understood"
18 Give a darn
19 Ryan of "Love Story"
20 Stags
22 Penny
24 Body lotion ingredient
25 Cryptocurrency
29 Two, in Toledo
30 Bright stars
31 "The Matrix" hero
32 Very slightly
34 Slippery — eel
35 Minn. neighbor
36 Tiny fish
37 Fashion show worker
40 Rani's wrap
41 Classic theaters
42 Small movie roles
46 Tick follower
47 Mayberry tyke
48 A gazillion years
49 Med. plan options
50 Dictionary entry
51 N.J. neighbor

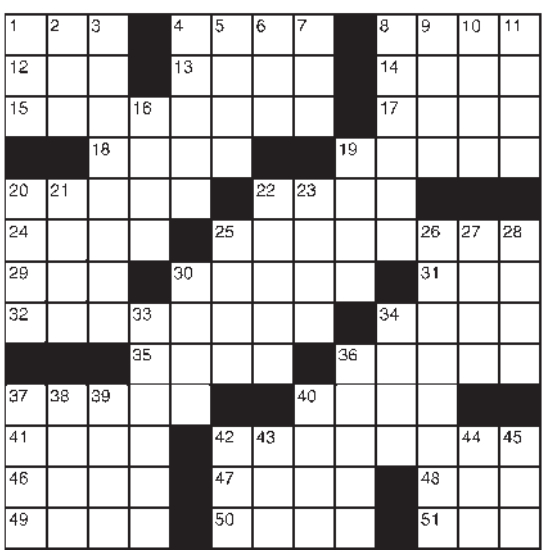
DOWN

1 Poke
2 Carte lead-in
3 Emergency-aid group
4 Tale tellers
5 North Sea feeder
6 Quarterback Manning
7 Retired jet
8 Religion of Japan
9 Nozzle site
10 Region
11 Highlander
16 Abhor
19 Never again?
20 Pilgrimage to Mecca
21 Matty of baseball
22 Honda model
23 Coup d'—
25 Short cuts
26 Uplifted
27 Tide variety
28 Electronics giant
30 Hammer target
33 Tinkers with
34 Mystique
36 Stared in wonder
37 Fluttery insect
38 Former Laker Lamar
39 Erte's style
40 Swizzle
42 Gift topper
43 Wall St. debut
44 Sock part
45 NBC weekend show

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	R	A	F		M	A	W		R	S	T	U
H	O	A	R		I	D	A		H	E	A	H
I	M	H	O		N	C	R		Y	A	H	N
P	O	S	S	E	S		M	E	M	E		
			T	A	K	E		T	E	A	S	Y
C	A	R	E			N	A		G	P	A	
L	E	A	D		P	E	G		S	L	A	M
A	R	I		P	O			P	O	E	I	S
N	O	T	T	O	W	C	R	R	Y			
		L	C	D	E		Y	E	M	E	N	I
N	Y	E	T		R	A	D		I	D	E	S
H	E	R	E		U	K	E		L	I	S	A
L	A	S	S		P	A	H		K	E	I	O

Yesterday's answer 10-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ksenia Solo, 34; Bruno Mars, 36; Sigourney Weaver, 72; Chevy Chase, 78.

Happy Birthday: Finish what you start. Leave nothing to chance. Don't labor over what you should do; just do what you must and keep moving forward. Expand your interests, dreams and friendships. Stabilize your home base, and rid yourself of dead weight. Seek the freedom to follow your heart and to head in a direction that brings you joy. Be true to yourself. Your numbers are 8, 13, 20, 29, 31, 43, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Align yourself with people who get what you are trying to do and are willing to assist you in reaching your goal. The information you share will help you adapt and head in a direction tailored to fit your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change may not be welcome, but it will be in your best interest. Take a moment to think matters through, and you'll come up with an alternative that will encourage you to use your skills, knowledge and experience efficiently. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Plan to get out and have some fun. Mix business with pleasure by getting to know some of the people in your industry, and you'll receive some interesting perspectives on how to improve and advance. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Say less and do more. Reach out to someone who shares your sentiments and your interests, and you will avoid getting involved in an argument. Make home improvements that will help you avoid negativity and complaints. Keep the peace. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't make promises you can't keep. Problems at home will mount if you are overly generous with outsiders while neglecting domestic issues. Be prepared to do something special for someone close to you, and avoid getting into unnecessary trouble. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Check in on someone who may need help. A kind gesture will make you feel good and help you realize how lucky you are. Time spent with someone who faces different battles will be eye-opening and encourage you to explore new possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Establish what's happened and what you want to do, then get the ball rolling. Use intelligence to make decisions that will lead to personal growth and new beginnings. Address issues concerning loved ones, and you'll resolve matters quickly. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Follow through your plans. Let your imagination lead the way. Sign up for something that brings you joy. Make a decision that will improve your lifestyle and encourage you to follow your heart. Don't give up or give in; get started. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Examine your current situation, then consider what you can do to improve your day-to-day living conditions. Rethink how you use your skills, and you'll come up with a plan that encourages you to expand your interests and qualifications. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You are overdue for a change, but first evaluate the pros and cons. Refuse to let anyone push you in a direction that isn't going to have long-term benefits. Keep your anger level down, and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Emotions will spin out of control if you let personal matters escalate. Stand back and be observant, and you'll come up with a solution that will put you in an excellent position to persuade others to see things your way. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look for a unique investment that will supply financial stability. Stick to a budget, and be cautious of any deal that requires shared expenses. Moderation will be essential if you want to be stress-free and in control. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are responsible, caring and resourceful. You are flexible and generous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7			9			
	1						4	
		4		7	3	5		2
8		9	5		2			
		5				1		
			3		4	6		5
7		6	9	5		4		
	3						6	
			8			2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/08

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	1	3	4	9	6	5	8	7
6	5	4	3	7	8	2	9	1
9	8	7	5	2	1	3	4	6
3	6	5	7	8	4	9	1	2
1	7	2	9	6	3	8	5	4
4	9	8	2	1	5	6	7	3
7	4	6	8	5	2	1	3	9
8	2	9	1	3	7	4	6	5
5	3	1	6	4	9	7	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'YELLOWSTONE' (TV SERIES) Solution: 9 letters

S	R	E	L	E	E	H	W	D	Y	Y	L	L	E	K
R	L	E	A	I	C	I	J	A	Y	L	I	V	E	A
E	L	G	M	N	D	T	P	O	M	L	L	V	A	Y
D	I	A	A	O	A	E	S	R	H	O	I	I	T	C
R	J	R	W	Y	T	T	O	R	E	N	N	M	E	E
O	I	E	L	A	V	D	N	N	C	W	A	I	A	R
B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S	O	A	A	O	V	C	F
E	R	W	N	O	N	T	S	T	M	T	T	P	Y	A
A	D	N	A	L	T	T	R	T	R	E	I	T	A	L
T	N	E	D	D	N	A	H	U	Y	I	A	V	L	A
I	A	R	I	E	I	Y	R	D	S	M	B	N	E	E
N	I	R	R	N	E	K	O	R	B	T	E	A	E	S
G	D	R	E	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O	N	L	R
C	N	C	H	A	N	G	E	P	U	R	P	L	E	H
P	I	H	S	N	O	I	T	A	L	E	R	O	C	K

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 10/8

Beating, Borders, Broken, Brothers, Cattle, Change, Dry, Dutton, Enemy, Evil, Family, Hand, Indian, Jamie, Jill, John, Kayce, Kelly, Kevin Costner, Land, Meaner, Monica, Montana, Native, Navy, Owner, Power, Purple, Rage, Ranch, Reilly, Relationship, Reservation, Road, Rock, Rodeo, SEAL, Sheridan, Sons, Tate, Taylor, Train, Tribal, Trust, Vent, Wheeler, Widower

Yesterday's Answer: Sparkles

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Taylor hits walk-off HR, Dodgers deck Cards 3-1 in WC game

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A recurring neck injury reduced slumping Chris Taylor from starter to bench player in September.

He proved a pain in the neck to the St. Louis Cardinals in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Taylor hit a two-run homer to lift the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 3-1 victory Wednesday night in a scintillating NL wild-card game.

Justin Turner homered early and the 106-win Dodgers advanced to a best-of-five Division Series against the NL West champion Giants, who won 107 games to barely hold off rival Los Angeles for the division title. Game 1 is Friday night in San Francisco.

"That's gonna be fun. Yeah, two of the best regular-season records of all-time. We've been battling all year, so I expect a hard-fought series," Taylor said.

The Dodgers celebrated on the field before heading into their clubhouse to continue the party. Beer and champagne were poured over the heads of shirtless, goggle-wearing players.

The sellout crowd of 53,193 hung on every pitch as the tension of a tie game built from the fourth inning on. Fans waved blue towels, futilely urging on the few balls launched into the outfield only to see them caught in a winner-take-all matchup between two of the National League's most storied and successful franchises.

Cody Bellinger drew a two-out walk from T.J. McFarland and stole second in the ninth, when nearly every fan was on their feet, anxiously waiting to see if the defending World Series champions could pull off a win.

"That's huge, knowing I don't have to do too much," said Taylor, batting in the No. 9 slot after entering to play left field as part of a double switch in the seventh. "It kind of settled me down a little bit."

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Chris Taylor (3) runs the bases after hitting a home run during the ninth inning to win a National League Wild Card playoff baseball game 3-1 over the St. Louis Cardinals Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Alex Reyes came in to face Taylor, who sent a 2-1 breaking ball into the left-field pavilion, triggering an explosion of cheers.

"Honestly, I was just trying to hit a single. Not trying to do too much," Taylor said after launching the fourth walk-off homer in Dodgers postseason history. "He gave me a good slider to hit and I was able to get it up in the air."

Tommy Edman dropped a one-out single into right off closer Kenley Jansen in the top of the ninth and stole second. Paul Goldschmidt took a called third strike and Tyler O'Neill went down swinging to end the threat.

The Dodgers' bullpen stymied the St. Louis hitters, allowing just a pair of singles after the fifth inning.

"The whole bullpen stepped up. We've been doing it the whole year," Jansen said. "Off we go up north now."

Both teams had runners on in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings, but couldn't push a run across.

St. Louis finished 0 for 11 with runners in scoring position, stranding 11 overall. The Cardinals went on a 17-game winning streak in September to grab the second wild-card spot, only to see their playoff dreams squelched.

"That's a clubhouse full of guys that are hurting," manager Mike Shildt said.

Dueling aces Adam Wainwright of St. Louis and the Dodgers' Max Scherzer struggled with their control early in just the second winner-take-all game in postseason history with two starting pitchers aged 37-plus. Wainwright is 40; Scherzer is 37.

"They were relentless," Wainwright said of the Dodgers. "We had our chances to win that game."

Wainwright and Scherzer issued two walks apiece through the first three innings. Scherzer's wild pitch led to a run in the first and he plunked Harrison Bader in the fourth.

Turner tied it at 1 in the fourth on a leadoff solo shot into the Dodgers' bullpen in left. It was the first homer Wainwright has ever given up on a curveball in the postseason. Turner's 13 postseason homers are the most in franchise history.

St. Louis led 1-0 when Edman scored on Scherzer's wild pitch. Edman singled leading off, stole second base and went to third when O'Neill fouled out to right.

Scherzer left with one out in the fifth after giving up a leadoff single to Edman and a walk to Goldschmidt. He paced the dugout with his hands on his hips. Former Cardinal Joe Kelly got out of the jam after Goldschmidt reached third on a wild pitch.

Scherzer allowed one run and three hits, struck out four and walked three against his hometown team.

"Pins and needles all night long. What an effort by our guys," a shirtless Scherzer said during a postgame interview with TBS on the field. "Now we party."

Wainwright gave up one run and four hits in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out five and walked two.

The Dodgers had Wainwright on the ropes in the third, loading the bases with one out. He was within one ball of walking in the tying run before Trea Turner broke his bat grounding into an inning-ending double play on a 3-2 pitch.

Nationals outfielder Juan Soto sat behind the plate wearing a Trea Turner jersey from his time in Washington. Soto finished second to Turner, his former Nats teammate, for the NL batting title. Turner won his first batting crown with a .328 average.

Soto said he wanted to support his teammates and "see their face when I surprise them."

It worked. Turner didn't know Soto was coming.

"When I saw him during the game I was laughing for him to be wearing my jersey," he said.

Nationals hitting coach Kevin Long was sitting next to Soto wearing Scherzer's jersey.

Dodgers co-owners Magic Johnson and Billie Jean King sat together nearby.

MLB draws 45.3M as fans return, down from 68.5M before COVID

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Baseball drew 45.3 million fans this year as fans gradually were allowed to return, down from 68.5 million over 2019 in the last season before the coronavirus pandemic.

The Los Angeles Dodgers led the major leagues in home attendance at 2.8 million. They did not start selling full capacity until games in mid-June.

This year's MLB season averaged 18,901 for 2,397 dates, the commissioner's office said Monday.

Atlanta was second at 2.3 million, followed by San Diego at 2.2 million, Texas and St. Louis at 2.1 million and Houston at 2.07 million.

The New York Yankees drew 1.96 million, Boston 1.7 million and the Mets 1.5 million in Steven Cohen's first season as owner.

Miami was last at 640,000, Oakland 29th at 700,000, Tampa Bay 28th at 760,000, Baltimore 27th at 790,000 and Toronto 26th at 800,000.

The Blue Jays played home games at their spring training ballpark in Dunedin, Florida, and then their Triple-A ballpark in Buffalo, New York, before returning home on July 30 to the Rogers Centre, where capacity reached a maximum of about 29,000 in late September.

Only Texas began the 2021 season at 100% capacity, with other U.S, teams reaching full capacity availability ranging from Atlanta on May 7 to Seattle on July 2.

Other dates for reaching full capacity were Arizona (May 25), Boston (May 29), Kansas City (May 31), Baltimore (June 1), Cincinnati and Cleveland (June 2). Philadelphia (June 4), Detroit (June 8), the Chicago Cubs and Washington (June 11), Philadelphia (June 12), St. Louis (June 14), the Los Angeles Angels and San Diego (June 17), the Yankees (June 18), the Mets (June 21), the Chicago White Sox, Houston, Milwaukee and San Francisco (June 25), Colorado (June 28), Oakland (June 29), Pittsburgh (July 1) and Minnesota and Tampa Bay (July 5).

MLB played a shortened 2020 schedule due to the pandemic, a regular season played entirely without fans.

A small percentage of capacity was sold for neutral site postseason games in Arlington, Texas, where 75,843 attended the Dodgers' win over Atlanta in the seven-game NL Championship Series and 68,622 attended the Dodgers' victory over Tampa Bay in a six-game World Series.

After big streak, Cardinals undone by one hanging slider

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A stunning September meant little for the St. Louis Cardinals in postseason that ended with one hanging slider.

Alex Reyes gave up a game-ending home run to Chris Taylor just after entering the game in the ninth inning, a drive that gave the Los Angeles Dodgers a 3-1 win Wednesday night and sent the Cardinals home.

Reyes, a 27-year-old righthander, entered after T.J. McFarland walked Cody Bellinger with two outs.

Bellinger stole second, Reyes fell behind 2-1 and Taylor sent a no-doubt drive 420 feet and several rows deep into the left field pavilion.

Reyes was an All-Star, had converted his first 24 save chances in a big league record, but on July 20 he blew a lead against the Chicago Cubs and by early September lost his closer's job.

As the crowd of 53,193 celebrated at first postseason game at Dodger Stadium with fans in two years, Reyes walked toward the dugout with his head down. Cardinals manager Mike Schildt gave him a pat.

St. Louis was under .500 as late as Aug. 10 and didn't revive until a franchise-record 17-game winning streak in September. The Cardinals closed 19-3 to claim the second NL wild card.

They hit over .300 with runners in scoring position during their streak but were 0 for 11 RISP against the Dodgers, stranding 11 runners.

Tommy Edman had three of the Cardinals' five hits. Adam Wainwright, at 40 matched up against 37-year-old Max Scherzer, threw just 59 of 95 pitches for strikes but allowed four hits, incuding Justin Turner's leadoff homer in the fourth, and lasted 5 1/3 innings.

Turner's home run countered the Cardinals' run in the first, when Edman scored on a wild pitch.

Hours later, the Dodgers readied for a Division Series matchup with San Francisco. The Cardinals headed home, still seeking their first title since 2011.

With Irving away again, Nets unsure when team will be whole

NEW YORK (AP)—The Brooklyn Nets no longer seem so sure they will have their whole team together for home games when the season opens.

General manager Sean Marks had said before training camp that he didn't expect New York's vaccine mandate would keep any players from being able to participate.

But with Kyrie Irving missing another practice, the team no longer has that confidence.

"I don't know. I can't answer that. As it stands now, no," coach Steve Nash said Wednesday. "So we'll see what happens. But I don't really want to speculate on something that is just currently up in the air."

New York has a mandate requiring coronavirus vaccinations for athletes who play in or practice in the city. Irving hasn't said whether he is or intends to be vaccinated, and even one of his close friends is uncomfortable discussing it with him.

"This is his decision. That's his choice. We all respect it," All-Star Kevin Durant said. "I mean, this is way bigger than hoops, so I don't even feel comfortable talking to him about stuff like this. But I'm just here to support and here to come in here and do my job as one of the leaders of this team and when things get figured out, I got to trust and hope that it'll get figured out."

AP

Brooklyn Nets head coach Steve Nash gestures during the second half of a preseason NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Irving practiced with the Nets last week when they held training camp in San Diego. But he hasn't been with the team in two workouts back at their home training center.

The Nets play their first exhibition home game Friday against Milwaukee but don't have a home game in the regular season until Oct. 24, so there is time for Irving if he does want to get vaccinated. If not, he wouldn't be paid for any games he misses.

Durant and Irving were U.S. Olympic teammates in 2016 who planned a future together, agreeing to sign with the Nets on the same day in 2019. Durant made clear he wants Irving on the team but will give him time and space to figure out if he wants that, too.

"I'm not really trying to get too involved in it because it's far bigger than myself and each one of us individually," Durant said. "This is one man's personal decision on his well-being."

When Marks spoke on Sept. 21, he said a couple of Nets wouldn't have been available at that time but said he was "confident in the following several days before camp everybody would be allowed to participate."

Irving is the only player who still isn't.

"We are anxious to be a whole team and Ky's a huge part of what we do, but he's dealing with something personal right now," Durant said. "And while he's dealing with that, we're going to focus on us here in the gym, keep working. And when he's ready to figure that out, he'll figure that out."

Pacers deal injured Sumner to Nets, sign Wanamaker to deal

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers traded injured guard Edmond Sumner to the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday for the rights to forward Juan Pablo Vaulet and a conditional second-round pick.

Sumner tore the his left Achilles tendon during offseason workouts and had surgery Sept. 13. The former Xavier star posted had his best season in 2020-21, averaging 7.5 points, 1.8 rebounds and 0.6 steals — all career highs — along with 0.9 assists. He was Indiana's second-round pick in 2017.

The 25-year-old Vaulet was Charlotte's second-round pick in 2015 but has played overseas since then. His rights were eventually traded to Brooklyn.

After playing in his home country of Argentina and the last two seasons in Spain, Vaulet has a deal to play in Greece this season.

Indiana also signed NBA veteran Brad Wanamaker to a training camp deal. The 32-year-old guard split his time with Golden State and Charlotte last season with combined averages of 5.5 points, 2.9 assists and 1.7 rebounds.

NBA will not randomly test players for marijuana this season

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The NBA has agreed to not randomly test players for marijuana this season, a continuation of the policy that was put in place last year for the COVID-19 "restart bubble" and has remained since.

Drug testing will continue for things such as human growth hormone and performance-enhancers, along with what the league calls "drugs of abuse"—such as methamphetamine, cocaine and opiates. But the league's agreement with the National Basketball Players Association over random marijuana tests will continue for at least another season.

"We have agreed with the NBPA to extend the suspension of random testing for marijuana for the 2021-22 season and focus our random testing program on performance-enhancing products and drugs of abuse," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said Wednesday.

The agreement was revealed to players in a memo from the union, the details of which were first reported by ESPN. The league suspended testing in March 2020 when play was suspended in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, then agreed with the players to test for performance-enhancers in the bubble at Walt Disney World that summer.

But marijuana wasn't on that list, wasn't tested for last season and now won't be this season either.

Decriminalizing marijuana has been a major topic at the government level for years, as has been the case in the sports world as well. Earlier this year, American sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson was left off the U.S. team's Olympic roster following a positive test for marijuana, costing her a chance at running on the 4x100 relay team in Tokyo, in addition to her spot in the 100-meter individual race.

After Richardson's suspension was announced, two members of Congress — U.S. Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and Jamie Raskin, D-Md., — wrote U.S. and global anti-doping leaders to say in part that "the ban on marijuana is a significant and unnecessary burden on athletes' civil liberties."

More than half of the states in the U.S. have decriminalized possessing small amounts of marijuana.

Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins receives COVID-19 vaccine

AP

Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins poses for photos during the NBA basketball team's media day in San Francisco, Monday, Sept. 27, 2021.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins has received his COVID-19 vaccine and will be eligible to play in all games.

The Warriors said coach Steve Kerr made the announcement to reporters Sunday after practice before the team traveled to Portland to play its first preseason game.

Wiggins faced the possibility of not being allowed into Golden State's home building at Chase Center for games starting Oct. 13 when the San Francisco Department of Public Health begins requiring proof of vaccination for large indoor events.

On Monday at media day, Wiggins had said he would stick to his beliefs regarding the vaccine but noted: "Back is definitely against the wall, but I'm just going to keep fighting for what I believe. I'm going to keep fighting for what I believe is right. What's right to one person isn't right to the other and vice versa."

The NBA said it "reviewed and denied" Wiggins' request for a religious exemption and that he would not be able to play in Warriors home games until he fulfilled the vaccine mandate. Anyone 12 or older is required to show proof of vaccination to attend indoor events at Chase Center, and that message is on the Warriors' website for fans.

Wiggins declined to explain what those beliefs actually entail, saying, "It's none of your business, that's what it comes down to."

He stood to lose more than $350,000 per game, and if he didn't play in any home games would have surrendered half of his $31.6 million salary.

"It's my problem not yours," he said.

The 26-year-old Wiggins, entering his eighth NBA season, averaged 18.6 points, 4.9 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 1.0 blocks last season.

The Warriors' first regular-season home game is scheduled for Oct. 21 against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Paire takes early lead in U12 of Fall League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Paire Football Club's Rodney Junior Tomei faces a phalanx of Kanoa FC defenders during their co-ed U12 competitive game in the 2021 NMIFA Youth Fall League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club moved on top of the team standings in the co-ed U12 competitive division early into the 2021 NMIFA Youth Fall League.

Paire blanked Kanoa FC-1 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, 4-0, for its second win in as many games and the lead in the seven-team field. Jayten and Jazzroy Villagomez, Beatrice Gross, and Rodney Junior Tomei scored one goal each for Paire.

In other games in the division, MP United Blue and MP United Pink prevailed over their respective foes. MPU Blue coasted past Kanoa FC-2, 9-0, while MPU Pink outclassed TanHoldings FC.

Brothers Stephen and Henry Yeom powered MP United Blue to the lopsided win with the former making four goals and the latter adding three. As for MP United Pink, it drew two goals from Taiga Namai-Scoggins and one from Moshe Sikkel, while Kian Estolas recorded the lone goal for TanHoldings.

BOYS U15
TanHoldings 2, MPU 0

TanHoldings notched its second straight after beating MP United.

Anthony Austria and Mark Ryan Costales made the pair of goals for the division co-leader.

Kanoa 7, Shirley's 0

Kanoa FC joined TanHoldings on top of the team standings after blowing out Shirley's.

Paul Lizama and Leland Deleon Guerrero nailed two goals apiece for Kanoa, while Tyler Omelau, Markus Toves, and Izeah Jolo chipped in one.

Matansa 9, Paire

Matansa broke into the win column after routing Paire.

Philip Megino and MD Arif Hossain Kagman led the easy victory after firing three goals apiece. Jerome Mettao, Jack Paul Lizama, and Pritom Sen contributed one goal each.

GIRLS U15
TanHoldings 11, MP United 2

Rizza Relucio scored seven goals, five of them in consecutive fashion in the first half to hand TanHoldings to its second win in as many matches early into the season.

Southern United 10, Kanoa 3

Southern United also improved to a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record after hammering Kanoa.

Pia Ngewakl stood out in Southern United's victory after logging six goals.

Paire 2, Shirley's 1

Paire got its first win of the season after nosing out Shirley's.

Justidy Mizutani made the twin goals for Paire, while Shanen Bangis tallied the lone goal for Shirley's.

Lady Eagles 1, Lady Dolphins 1 remain undefeated

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Grace Christian Academy 1 and Marianas High School 1 remained unscathed after defeating their respective opponents in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 season last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Dolphins 1 was the first to keep its winning streak alive after a 25-14, 27-25 victory over an improving Saipan Southern High School 1. The now 8-0 MHS 1 is made up of Arisa Custodio, Abigail Decena, Madelleen Narciso, Fatima Monterubio, Julie Ann Capayas, Daejah Benavente, Rizza Relucio, Raina Avelino, Raenna Ramarui, Kalista Klaver, and Kina Rangamar. SSHS 1 dropped to 2-6.

The Lady Eagles 1 followed suit, registering its ninth win against no loss after manhandling Saipan International School 2, 25-1, 25-9. The GCA 1 roster includes Karina Dilse, Clerrise Dacumos, Katriel Saures, Hye Jin Elliott, Soleil Lamar, Vicky Wang, Mint Karsuaythong, Eunice Pagaduan, and Allyssa Omampo. It was the seventh loss in nine games for SIS 2.

In other games, SIS 1 improved to 6-2 in the win-loss column after blanking Mt. Carmel School 2, 25-0, 25-0. It was MCS 2's second loss in eight matches. MHS 2 also scored back-to-back wins Wednesday after beating MCS 3, 25-19, 25-13, and knocking out GCA 2, 25-20, 25-20. MHS 2 is now at 7-3, while MCS 3 dropped to an even 5-5 record and GCA 2 is now at 5-4. In the final match of the day, SIS 1 showed no love to sister team SIS 2, 25-7, 25-9, to hike its mark to 7-2, while dealing SIS 2 a 2-7 record.

MARK RABAGO
Marianas High School 1 players shake hands with Saipan International School 2 players in their earlier game in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 season at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

PLAYOFF

From Page 24

and Hopwood 1 had the most inferior quotient.

In games played Wednesday, DMS closed the regular season on a high note with a 19-2 over Hopwood 1 in the first game. Priscilla Tomokane led the team with 9 points.

FMS scored win No. 4 with a 14-3 thrashing of SCS. Sierra Manahane was the highest pointer in the game with 6 points.

The third game then saw Hopwood 2 keep Tanapag winless with a 30-4 victory. Kialeen Leemarvin continued her hot-scoring spree with 8 markers.

FMS then then formally secured the third spot with a 11-9 nipping of Mt. Carmel. Tenaesha Diaz paced the team with 9 points.

First Game

DMS 19 – Tomokane 9, Reyes 4, George 2, Yamada 2.
HMS 1 2 – Ferrer 2.
Scoring by halves: 9-0, 19-2.

Second Game

FMS 14 – Manahane 6, Saralu 4, Shorey 2, Taisakan 2.
SCS 3 – Bacani 3.
Scoring by halves: 6-2, 14-3

Third Game

HMS 2 30 – Leemarvin 8, Daikichy 6, Sonoda 4, Saures 2, Christopher 2, Manas 2, Lisua 2, Taisague 2, Yleisa 2.
TMS 4 – Camacho 3.
Scoring by halves: 20-2, 30-4.

Fourth Game

FMS 11 – Diaz 9, Taisakan 2.
MCS 9 – Estella 4, Pangelinan 3, Backe 2.
Scoring by halves: 9-6, 11-9.

NATE

From Page 24

dan Pangelinan also got out of the first round following a 21-17, 21-15 smashing of Hapi Gabriel and Rowena Houk. Macario and Miles Guerrero are also into the second round after beating Arago and Hannah Choi, 21-18, 21-15.

In the B women's singles, Mae Ito is in the third round after vanquishing Christy Villaflor, 21-14, 21-16. The latter earlier defeated Miles Guerrero, 21-16, 13-21, 21-19. Fernandez also won her debut in the division after an easy 21-14, 21-15 triumph over Lucella Lampera. Malou Malasarte also nipped Houck, 21-16, 13-21, 21-19. Then in the loser's bracket, Houk eliminated Lampera, 13-21, 21-16, 21-19.

In the B mixed doubles, Cris Hilario and Fernandez are safely into the third round after beating Anneth Ta and Alvin Alvarez, 14-21, 21-11, 21-10. Ta and Alvarez got out of the first round after winning over Leng Peraja and Eric Pena, 21-17, 21-16. Also advancing to the second round was the pairing of Malasarte and Hajin Oh after whipping Dez Nikomedes and Lampera, 21-4, 21-19.

Lance Gallardo and Choi also won after beating Gabriel and Miles Guerrero, 21-6, 21-8. The latter earlier beat Eydie Uy and Shirley Kim, 21-5, 21-5. Also winners were Thomas Lim and Serrano after they defeated Houk and Allan Cruz, 21-20, 18-21, 21-15. Results of other divisions will be updated next week.

Games in the TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc.-sponsored tournament will continue over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SIS

From Page 24

second overall, as the team prevailed in the boys tournament in 2014. Joining Vaiava Hihina-Mercado, Jambor, and Lee on this season's champion squad are Chen Wangxing, Yutaro Kitagawa, Finn Altizer, Steve Zeng, Keoni and Leilani Ruszala, Windsor and Beatrice Gross, Nathaniel Roberto, Yun Hee Woo, Johnny Zhang, Jake and Dean Duenas, Tristan Bertoncini, Elizabeth Culp, and Jude Rayphand. April Liske-Clark is the Geckos' coach.

Meanwhile, Garapan 1 took the third place honors in the division after winning over Garapan 2, 7-2.

Jazzroy Villagomez towed Garapan 1 to victory after delivering five goals. Evan Seguritan and John Vergara added one apiece, while Garapan 2's pair of goals both came from Kanoa Owens.

Team Kio escapes RNV to remain undefeated

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Team Kio barely kept its unblemished record after escaping with a 69-67 win over a fighting RNV team in the Island-wide Men's BudLight Basketball League last Wednesday at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Playing in the opener, Kio had its full team back after playing minus key starters its last game against Rampage following the passing of Kioni Sablan.

The Sablan brothers—Dustin, Paka, and Bing and their half-brother Kim King—played lackadaisically the entire game, but Team Kio still led RNV the entire game. It was 22-13 after the first quarter thanks to the 6 points of Robert Reyes.

Kio added 2 points to their advantage at the half, 38-27, before RNV slowly chipped into the league-leader's advantage, 54-48, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

That's when the match tightened up with RNV's Rommel Udaundo going berserk to help his team close the gap. In the final moments of the exciting match, Kio was ahead by just a matchstick, 68-67, when King was fouled with 3 seconds left in the game. He made his first free throw but missed the second. Fortunately, Team Kio managed to come up with important rebound as time expired.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Marie King Reyes (sister of the late Kioni Sablan's mother), Kimberlyn King (sister of Kioni), Annie King (mother of Kioni), and Bing (brother of Kioni) before Team Kio's game against RNV in the Island-wide Men's BudLight Basketball League last Wednesday at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Reyes top-scored for the now 11-0 Team Kio with 22 points, while King was the only double-digit scorer for the squad with 10 markers. Udaundo was the game's high-point man with 24 points, but it came in a loss—RNV's seventh in 11 games.

Before the start of the game, RNV players had a brief prayer in respect to the late Kioni Sablan.

In the nightcap, Devil Dog Warriors cruised to a 78-48 win over a shorthanded Team CNMI, which was missing three suspended players stemming from an incident during their game against Ko'Bees last week.

After being buried by a torrent of points in the first 30 minutes of the match, it would go from bad to worse for Team CNMI in the fourth quarter as Bambino Monkeya got injured with still 8:15 left in the game and they were forced to finish the match with only four players.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Kio's Kim King makes the first of two free throws with 3 seconds left in their game against RNV in the Island-wide Men's BudLight Basketball League last Wednesday at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Jake Montgomery led Devil Dog Warriors with 21 markers with Zjonti Kubinski chipping in 14 for good measure. The win was the ninth in 11 outings for the team. Team CNMI, which dropped to 3-8, was paced by the 20 points of Esteban Borja, while Joe Santos added 11 points.

First Game

Team Kio 69 – Reyes 22, King 10, D. Sablan 8, P. Sablan 6, Sanchez 6, Cepeda 6, San Nicolas 4, Cabrera 4, B. Sablan 2.

RNV 67 – Udaundo 24, Maquiling 13, Villacrusis 7, Borca 6, Remegio 6, Bungabong 4, Rizardo 3, Belmonte 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-13, 38-27, 54-48, 69-67.

Second Game

Devil Dog Warriors 78 – Montgomery 21, Kubinski 14, Kada 9, Wayland 8, Ogaldez 7, James 7, Sakalan 6, Navarro 2, Beal 2.

Team CNMI 48 – Borja 20, Santos 15, Lizama 11, Monkeya 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-7, 40-26, 60-36, 78-48.

NMICF 'Radar Challenge' this Sunday

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation will hold a fundraising race this Sunday to help send CNMI delegates to the inaugural Pacific Cup and Tour de Guam in neighboring Guam this December.

Dubbed the "Radar Challenge," the race will start at the former Mariana Resort & Spa and proceed north to Suicide Cliff before turning back to the Bird Island Lookout, then go to Banzai Cliff, and on the old Pacific Barrier Radar station in San Roque for the finish line.

NMICF official Jay Diyco said they're expecting at least 40 participants in the fundraising cycling race.

"We choose this route to make it different from our usual race routes and to challenge bikers on the uphill finish," he said.

The Radar Challenge will have a 6am start on Sunday, Oct. 10.

Participants are required to pre-register online. Registration fee is $10 and may be paid on the day of the race.

Proceeds from the Radar Challenge will go to the CNMI cycling team that will take part in Oceania Cycling Confederation's first-ever Pacific Cup and Tour de Guam on Dec. 12, 2021.

Joel Buco and Ayana Braxton topped the Pacific Cup tryouts held last August. Buco was the first male cyclist to complete the 10-mile individual time trial from Banzai Cliff to the Mobil gas station in Tanapag and back to Banzai Cliff in 25:44.

Completing the Top 3 in the men's division were Mark Isip, who come in at 27:16, and Cesar Fortaleza at 28:35. Meanwhile, Braxton was the lone female who took part in the tryout, coming in 16th overall in a time of 31:34.

Diyco earlier said the top male and female finishers in the individual time trial will get an all-expense paid trip to Guam courtesy of Oceania Cycling Confederation. The rest of the delegates' costs going to Guam will be shouldered by the local federation and will be raised through fundraisers.

TRAC conducts ocular inspection of Mini Games course

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

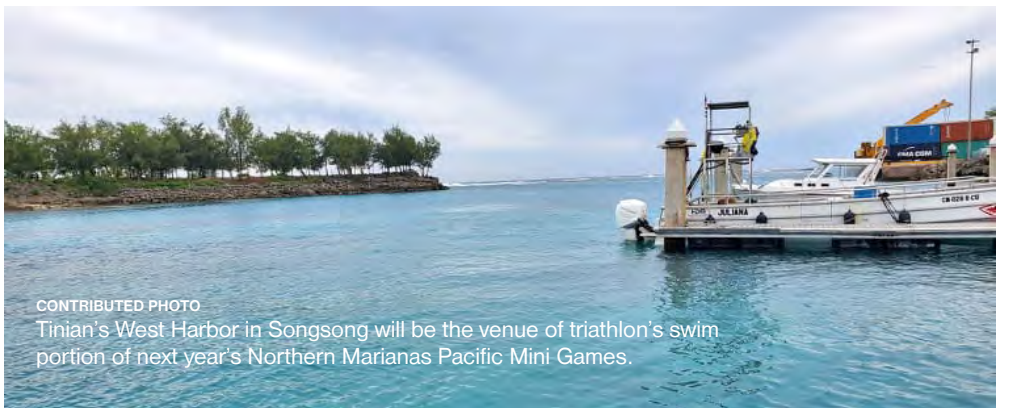
The Triathlon Association of the CNMI has already visited Rota a couple of months ago to conduct an ocular inspection of island where the triathlon competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games will be held.

TRAC president Manny Sitchon said he and TRAC board member Florence Antonio met with Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig in early August and the local chief executive helped tour them on the swim, bike, and run course for next year's quadrennial event.

Atalig also assured Sitchon and Antonio that the Rota Mayor's Office will coordinate with the Department of Public Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and Marianas Visitors Authority on road improvements that need to be completed before the triathlon competition next year.

The TRAC official also said the swim, bike, and run course for the Mini Games will not follow the old route of the Rota Blue Triathlon.

"The swim portion of the Rota Blue Triathlon isn't really good because a bit of bad weather and the swells become big," said Sitchon. "The plan now is to use the West Harbor in Songsong because the water conditions there are more predictable."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian's West Harbor in Songsong will be the venue of triathlon's swim portion of next year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

He added that the bike and run portions of the Mini Games triathlon event will also be held in Songsong with the Songsong Roundhouse serving as the finish line of both the bike and run portions. "It's nice to do the triathlon within vicinity of the village so residents can watch the race."

As far as equipment is concerned, Sitchon said they can still use the old ones left by MVA when it used to conduct the Rota Blue Triathlon. "They're still under the care of MVA so we just need to coordinate with them for usage for next year's Mini Games."

Northern Marianas Pacific Games 2022 organizing committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta added they are working closely with the airlines with regards to logistics in terms of the bikes, other equipment, and also the triathletes and national and international officials that are bound for the CNMI's southernmost island for the Mini Games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

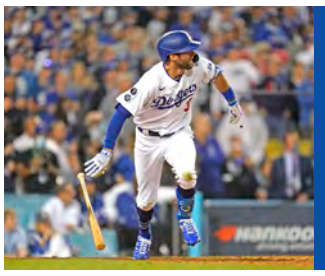
The Songsong Roundhouse will serve as the finish line of both the bike and run portions of next year's triathlon competition in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

"The national triathlon association and its president, Manny Sitchon, went down to Rota and met with the mayor already. It's all set there. We're taking the Rota Blue Triathlon equipment and what have you. They're still intact," he said.

Asked how many athletes the organizing committee is expecting from Olympic powerhouses Australia and New Zealand, Babauta said the two countries have still to submit their delegation list.

"We probably will get their numbers [at a later date]. They just got back from competing in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Definitely will get some athletics, beach volleyball, and weightlifting delegates from Australia and New Zealand. Beach volleyball is also a big thing in Australia and New Zealand."

The triathlon competition of the Mini Games is expected to attract 50 athletes from 10 countries.



Taylor hits walk-off HR, Dodgers deck Cards 3-1 in WC game

PAGE 20

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Team Kio escapes RNV to remain undefeated

PAGE 23

SIS dethrones Koblerville

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School players and coach April Liske-Clark, third left back row, pose with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, CNMI Public School System, and Board of Education officials during the awards ceremony for the 2021-2022 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The 2021-2022 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League has a new champion, as Saipan International School defeated 2020-2021 season winner Koblerville Elementary School in last Wednesday's finale, 4-1, at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Lukas Lee, Vaiava Hihina-Mercado, and Quido Jambor teamed up in handing the Geckos the title win and denying the Umang's bid for back-to-back elementary school division crown. Koblerville 2 took the 2020-2021 title after downing Saipan Community School in the finals early this year, 6-2.

This season, Koblerville 1 challenged SIS in the championship game and failed to keep the crown after scoring only one goal.

Eleazie Mettao put Koblerville 1 on the board in the 32nd minute, but by the time he connected on his shot, the Geckos had already fired three goals. Hihina-Mercado gave SIS its first goal in the eighth minute and the Geckos hung on to the precarious lead at the end of the first half.

In the second half, SIS threatened to pull away behind the two straight goals of Lee, who registered his first goal in the 21st minute and the second six minutes later.

After Mettao's goal brought SIS' lead down to 2, 1-3, the Geckos countered quickly with Jambor's goal in the 33rd minute. Koblerville 1 then could not fight back in the remaining minutes of the finals to fall short in their campaign for two consecutive championships in the elementary division.

The Geckos won their first elementary division title since the co-ed format was introduced in the 2019 season and

See SIS on Page 22

Playoff pairings set in MS hoops

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League will enter its playoff round starting today after concluding its round-robin phase last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Grace Christian Academy garneted the No. 1 spot after going 7-0. The Lady Eagles will face Tanapag Middle School, which has failed to win a game so far this season. Hopwood Middle School 2 is seeded No. 2 after finishing with a 6-1 record and will square off against sister team and seventh seed Hopwood 1 (2-5). No. 3 Francisco M. Sablan Middle School (5-2) will challenge No. 6 Mt. Carmel School (2-5), while Dandan Middle School (4-3) will test the mettle of Saipan Community School (2-5) in a No. 4-No. 5 matchup.

The Lady Tsunamis, Lady Knights, and Lady Hilitais 1 all finished with identical win-loss records, but the former had a superior quotient

See PLAYOFF on Page 22

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hopwood Middle School 2's Kialeen Leemarvin takes a look at the basket before making a shot during their game against Tanapag Middle School in the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Nate, Andrew, Joseph advance in A men's singles

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Nathan "Nate" Guerrero, Andrew Galvez, and Joseph Torres are into the second round of the A men's singles division of the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Guerrero topped Ferdie Arago in their first round meeting despite losing the first set, 15-21, 21-11, 21-11. Torres, meanwhile, got the better of the lone lady player in the division after dispatching Janelle Pangilinan, 21-15, 21-15. Galvez also needed just two sets to dispose of Daniel Macario, 21-17, 21-20.

Only one game has been played in the A men's doubles so far and it saw Guerrero and Macario advance with a 21-14, 21-19 win over Torres and Jordan Pangelinan.

Over in the A mixed doubles, Galvez teamed up with Windy Fernandez to upend Guerrero and Janelle Pangilinan, 21-19, 15-19, 21-19. Earlier, Galvez and Fernandez beat Torres and Ella Serrano, 21-17, 18-21, 21-12. Jor-

See NATE on Page 22

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Joseph Torres in action against Janelle Pangilinan in the A men's singles division of the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.